# BALL BOY

The Beano 1975-1983

UK Comics Archive

Boutje Fedankt COMICS

# BALL BOY

Boutje Comics ©

Director : Boutje Fedankt
Manager : Boutje Fedankt
Editor : Boutje Fedankt

Boutje Fedankt Productions
UK COMICS

Content

400 pages with stories
from Beano 1735-2163
year 1975-1983

The strip was drawn by Malcolm Judge until his death in 1989. John Dallas took over from him afterwards, and drew it until his retirement in April 2003. Since then, the artist has been Dave Eastbury. Nigel Parkinson and Tom Paterson both occasionally draw the strip as well.

Gathered and compiled by Boutje Fedankt : Thanks to the scanners and original uploaders
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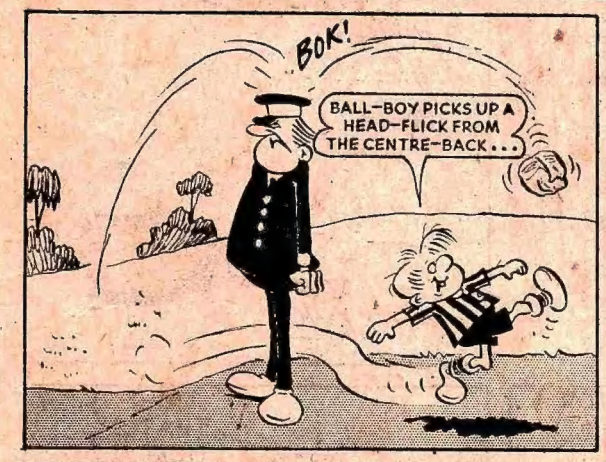
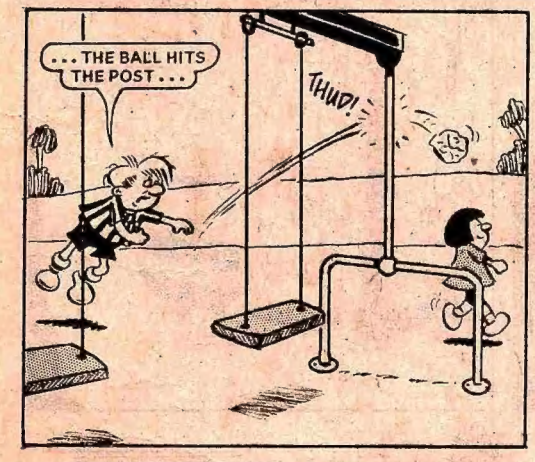
Ball Boy is a strip in UK comic The Beano and also the name of the main character.
It first appeared in issue 1,735, dated 18 October 1975.
It features a five-a-side football team who usually lose all their matches, often heavily, that includes:

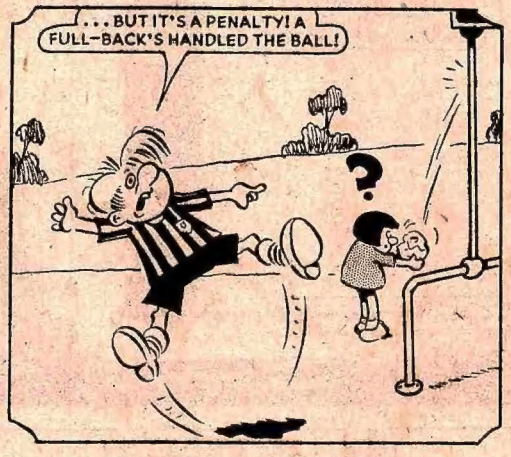
* Ball Boy – the captain of the team, Ball Boy bears resemblances to The Dandy's Owen Goal. He plays striker for the team. He has a minor part in The Beano Interactive DVD, playing football with a globe in a geography lesson.
* Titch – A small boy who (surprising considering his height) usually plays in defence. Little is known of Titch, although he was given his own short strip in The Beano Annual 2002.
* Dimmy – A defender, who is quite dim, hence his name. He looks a lot like Plug from the Bash Street Kids.
* Benjy – A good player on the team, Benjy seems to be vice-captain and is Ball Boy's best friend.
* Goalie – the goalkeeper. This character is an enigma in the sense that in some strips he is a superb goalkeeper and in others he is comically awful, letting in everything. There are a few strips where he just sits in the corner of the goal, reading, because the rest of the team can't get a shot on target.
* Chandra Singh – joined the team at the end of 2008 and is the team's most skilful player.

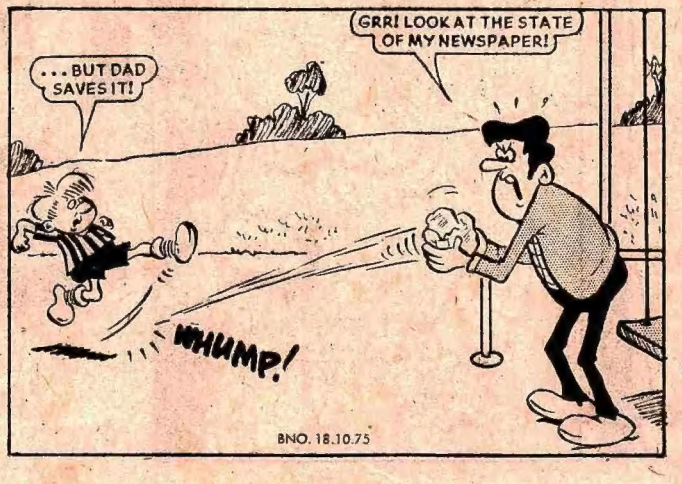
Ball Boy's team kit was originally a red and black vertical striped shirt and black shorts, but it later changed to blue and black stripes. One annual used white and black vertical stripes, but that was before the strip became full colour. Sometimes they get guest players joining the team for a strip, like Bea, or Gnasher.
The team sometimes also have other players featured, including a recurring black player called Elvis.
Paul Gascoigne made a guest appearance in the strip in 1993 in the issue celebrating Roger the Dodger's 40th anniversary when Roger, who was appearing in every strip in that week's comic, arranged for Gascoigne to sign up for the team.
Ball Boy and his team have both been at two World Cups. Italy in 1990 featured in that year's Beano Book and a long running strip in the comic appeared during the 1998 finals featuring the team in France.

# NEW! BALL BOY





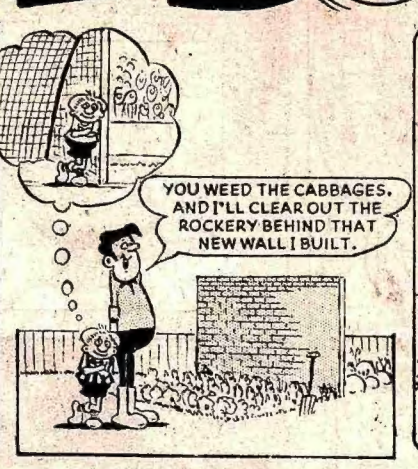



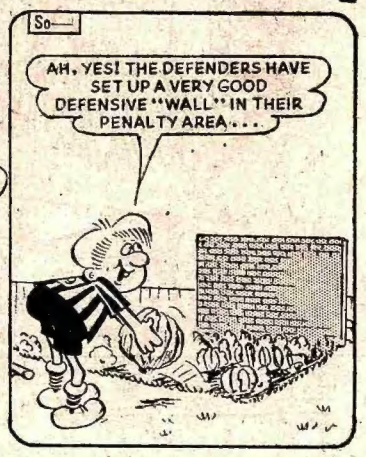


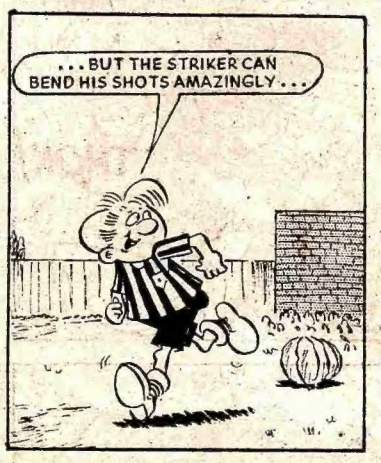
BNO. 18.10.75

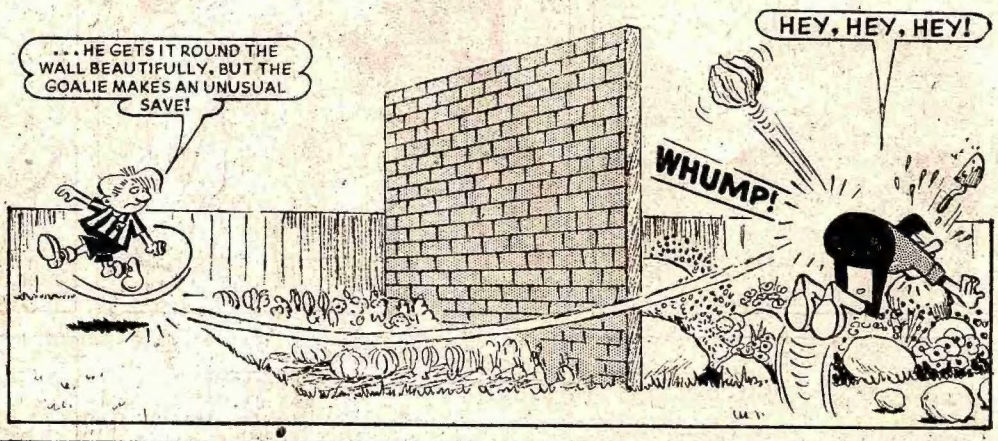
# BALL BOY

INSTEAD OF PLAYING FOOTBALL, YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME IN THE GARDEN!
AW, DAD!


YOU WEED THE CABBAGES, AND I'LL CLEAR OUT THE ROCKERY BEHIND THAT NEW WALL I BUILT.

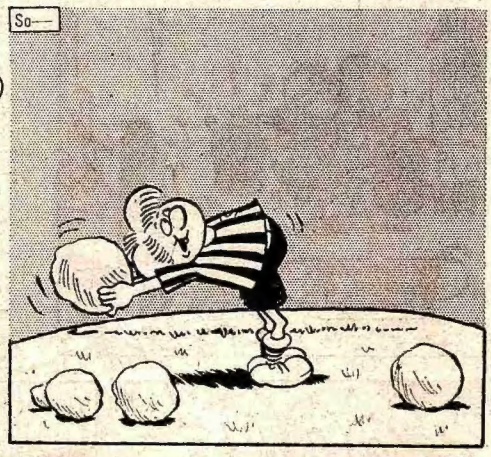

So—
AH, YES! THE DEFENDERS HAVE SET UP A VERY GOOD DEFENSIVE "WALL" IN THEIR PENALTY AREA....


...BUT THE STRIKER CAN BEND HIS SHOTS AMAZINGLY...


...HE GETS IT ROUND THE WALL BEAUTIFULLY, BUT THE GOALIE MAKES AN UNUSUAL SAVE!
HEY, HEY, HEY!
WHUMP!

So—
SNORT! GO AND THROW THESE ROCKS ON THE RUBBISH DUMP— YOU CAN'T GET FOOTBALL MIXED UP WITH THAT!

HEY! I COULD PRACTISE MY LONG THROW-INS WITH THESE!


So—

THERE IT GOES—RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF THE DEFENCE!
BNO. 25.10.75

But—
CRUMP!

OUT OF MY SIGHT!
HUH! I'M BEING SENT OFF!

# BALL BOY

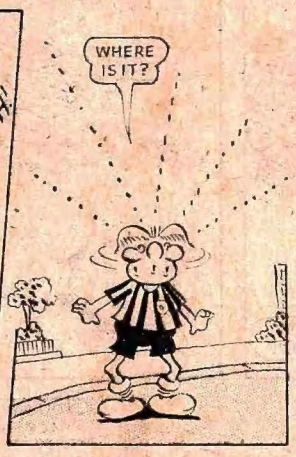
I'M GOING TO TRY AND BEAT MY KEEPIE-UP RECORD TODAY, READERS!

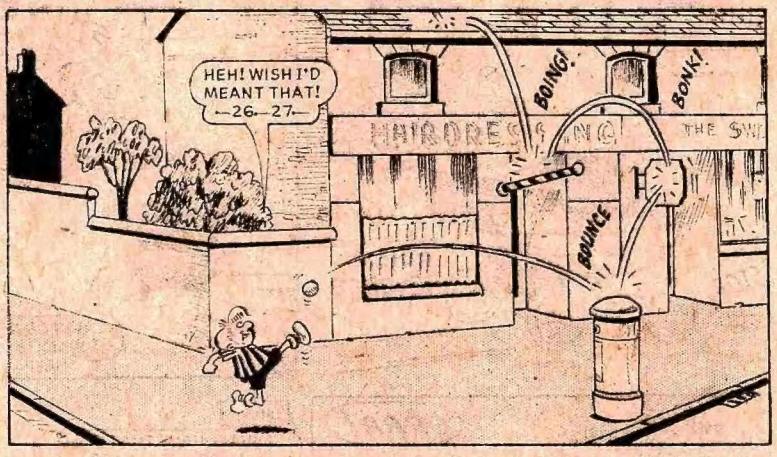
So—
—8—9—10—

—14—15—OOPS! TOO FAR!

WELL PLAYED THAT DUMMY! —16—17—

Then—
—24—25—
BOOMPH!


WHERE IS IT?

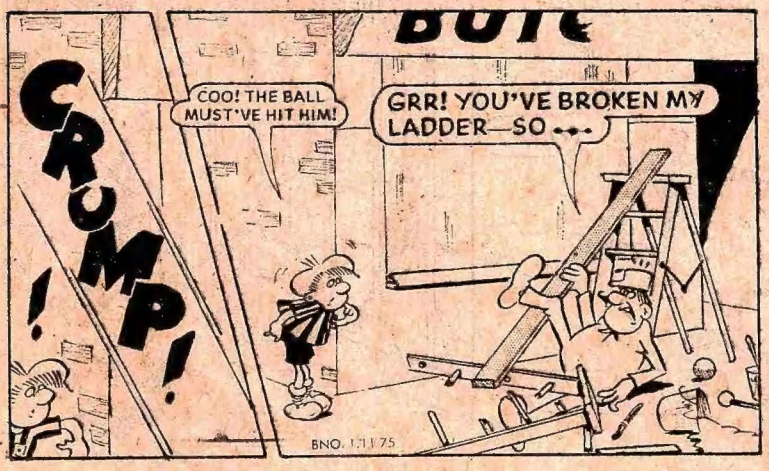

HEH! WISH I'D MEANT THAT! —26—27—
BOING!
BONK!
BOUNCE

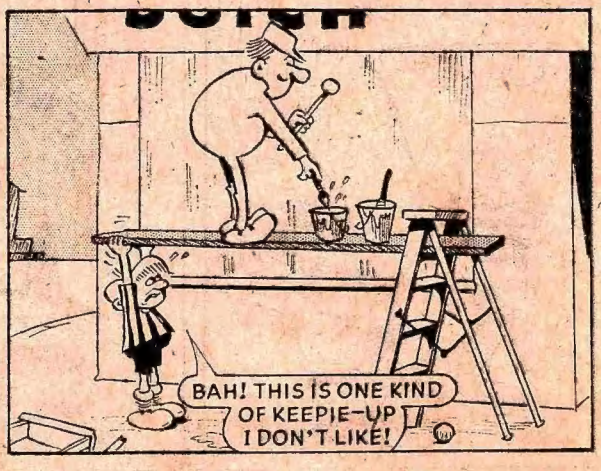
32—33—OOPS! TOO HARD!
WHUMP!

PUFF! GOT TO REACH IT BEFORE IT HITS THE GROUND!

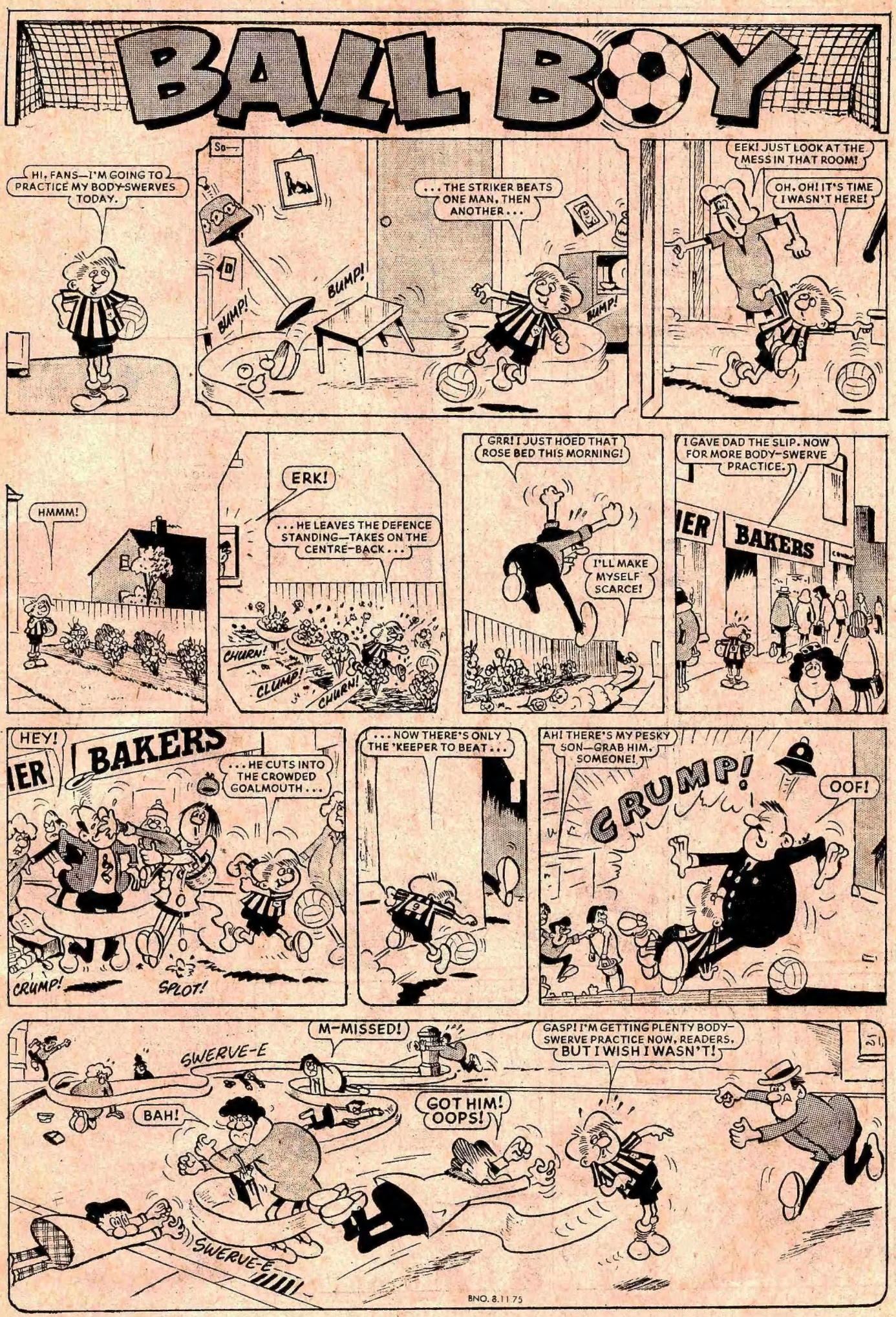
THANKS, MISTER! —34—35—
CLUNK!

—42—43—
JUST ONE MORE TO BEAT MY RECORD!
BOOT!

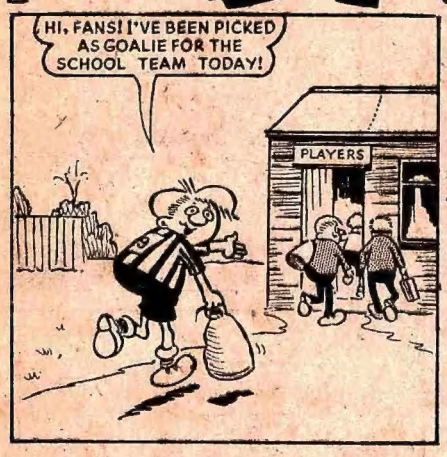

CRUMP!
COO! THE BALL MUST'VE HIT HIM!
GRR! YOU'VE BROKEN MY LADDER—SO...
BNO. 1.11.75


BAH! THIS IS ONE KIND OF KEEPIE-UP I DON'T LIKE!

# BALL BOY


HI, FANS—I'M GOING TO PRACTICE MY BODY-SWERVES TODAY.
SO—
BUMP!
BUMP!
BUMP!
...THE STRIKER BEATS ONE MAN, THEN ANOTHER...
EEK! JUST LOOK AT THE MESS IN THAT ROOM!
OH, OH! IT'S TIME I WASN'T HERE!
HMMM!
ERK!
...HE LEAVES THE DEFENCE STANDING—TAKES ON THE CENTRE-BACK...
CHURN!
CLUMP!
CHURN!
GRR! I JUST HOED THAT ROSE BED THIS MORNING!
I'LL MAKE MYSELF SCARCE!
I GAVE DAD THE SLIP. NOW FOR MORE BODY-SWERVE PRACTICE.
BAKERS
HEY!
BAKERS
...HE CUTS INTO THE CROWDED GOALMOUTH...
CRUMP!
SPLOT!
...NOW THERE'S ONLY THE 'KEEPER TO BEAT...
AH! THERE'S MY PESKY SON—GRAB HIM, SOMEONE!
CRUMP!
OOF!
M-MISSED!
SWERVE-E
BAH!
GOT HIM! OOPS!
GASP! I'M GETTING PLENTY BODY-SWERVE PRACTICE NOW, READERS, BUT I WISH I WASN'T!
SWERVE-E
BNO. 8.11.75

# BALL BOY


HI, FANS! I'VE BEEN PICKED AS GOALIE FOR THE SCHOOL TEAM TODAY!
PLAYERS

THIS'LL KEEP THE SUN OUT OF YOUR EYES, BALL-BOY.
SPORTS MASTER

GULP! WHY DID I PICK HIM AS GOALKEEPER?
OOPS! BUTTER-FINGERS!

Soon—
CATCH IT, GOALIE!

OO-ER! CAUGHT THE WRONG THING!
GOAL!

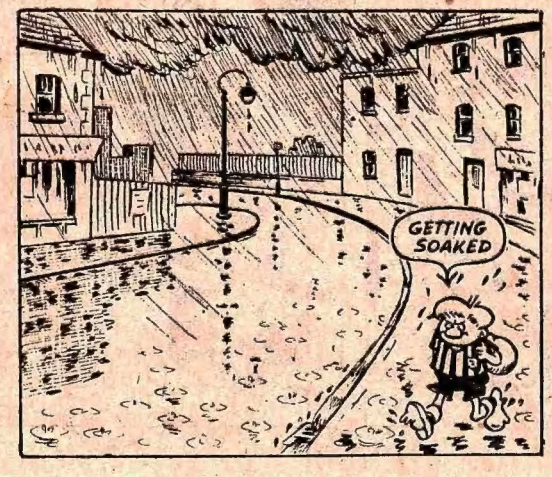
CATCH THAT ONE, BALL-BOY!

YOU CAUGHT THE WRONG THING AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?
GOAL!

After the game—
I DIDN'T CATCH A THING ALL DAY. NOW I'LL HAVE TO HURRY FOR MY BUS.

BAH! COULDN'T EVEN CATCH THE BUS—NOW I'LL HAVE TO WALK HOME!
IT'S QUICKER BY RAIL

OH, NO—IT'S GOING TO RAIN!


GETTING SOAKED

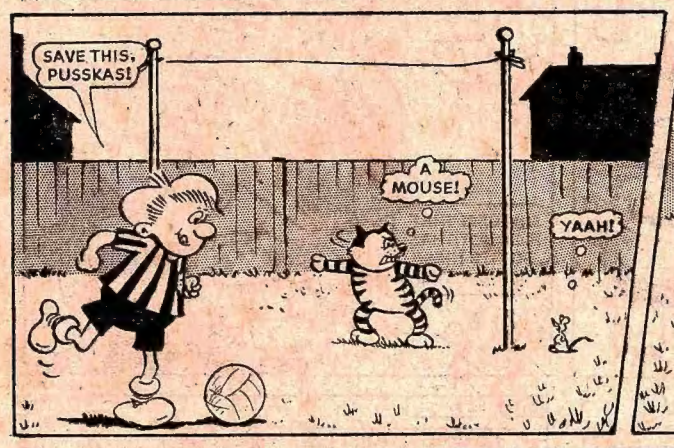
SNIFFLE! I CAUGHT SOMETHING AT LAST, PALS — A PESKY COLD!
BNO, 15.11.75

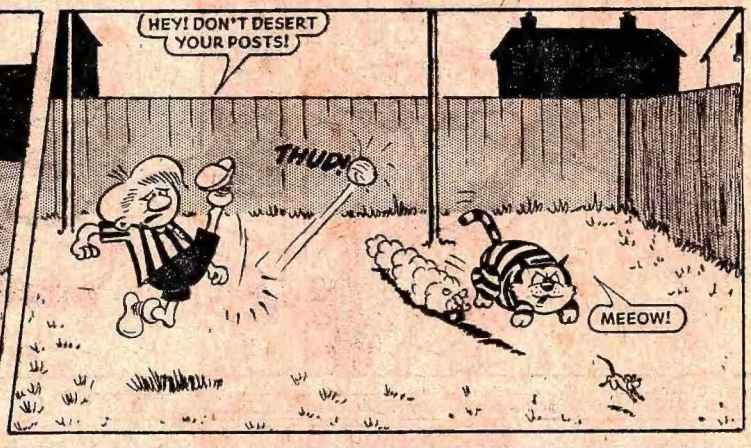
# BALL BOY

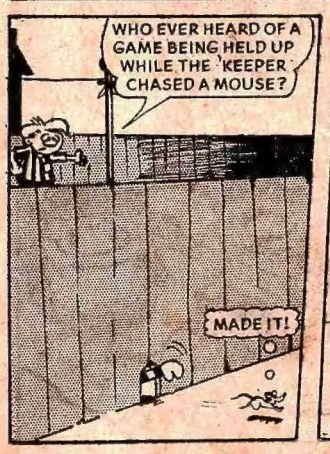
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A GREAT GAME, FANS—THE GOALIE'S AS AGILE AS A CAT!
PUSSKAS, BALL-BOY'S PET CAT

First shot—
AW, NO!

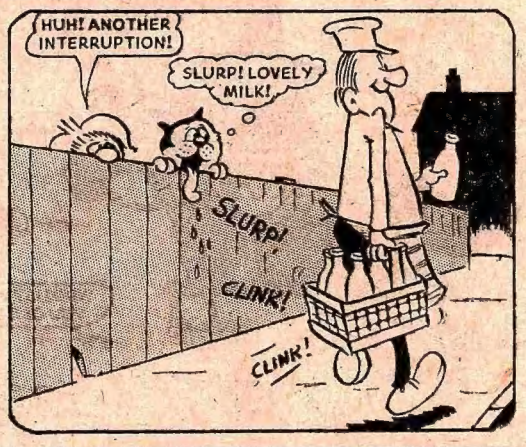
WE'LL TRIM YOUR CLAWS FOR A START!
SNIP!


SAVE THIS, PUSSKAS!
A MOUSE!
YAAH!


HEY! DON'T DESERT YOUR POSTS!
THUD!
MEEOW!


WHO EVER HEARD OF A GAME BEING HELD UP WHILE THE 'KEEPER CHASED A MOUSE?
MADE IT!

Shortly—
WE'LL MAYBE GET STARTED THIS TIME!
CLINK!
CLINK!

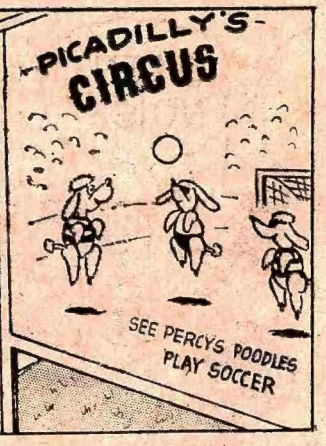

HUH! ANOTHER INTERRUPTION!
SLURP! LOVELY MILK!
SLURP!
CLINK!
CLINK!

THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA.

Soon—
WHISPER!

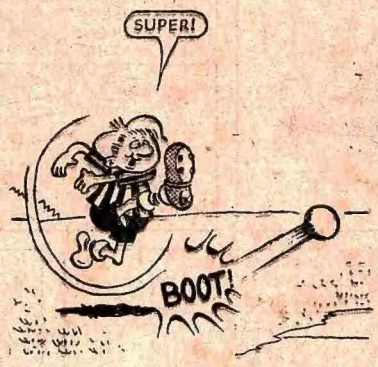
HOW DID YOU DO IT, BALL-BOY?
READER'S VOICE
TREMBLE
BNO. 22.11.75

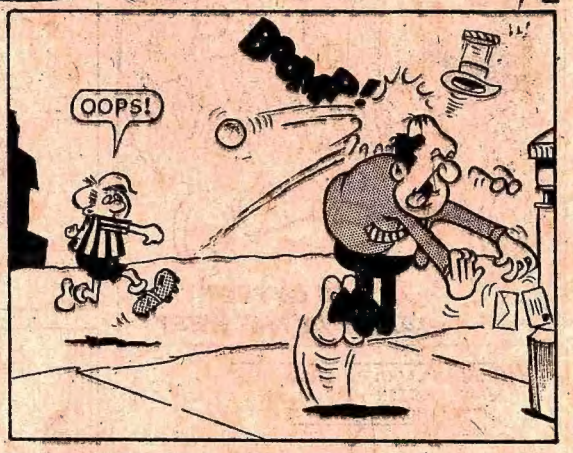
WORRIED
I THREATENED TO GIVE HIM A FREE TRANSFER TO THE CIRCUS DOGS' FOOTBALL TEAM IF HE DIDN'T BEHAVE!


PICADILLY'S CIRCUS
SEE PERCY'S POODLES PLAY SOCCER

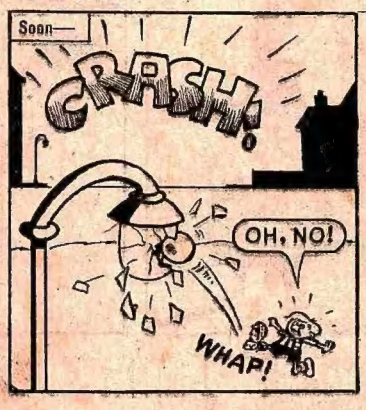
# BALL BOY

COO! LOOK-ONE OF THOSE OLD-FASHIONED FOOTBALL BOOTS! BET I COULD KICK REALLY HARD WITH THAT!
DUMP

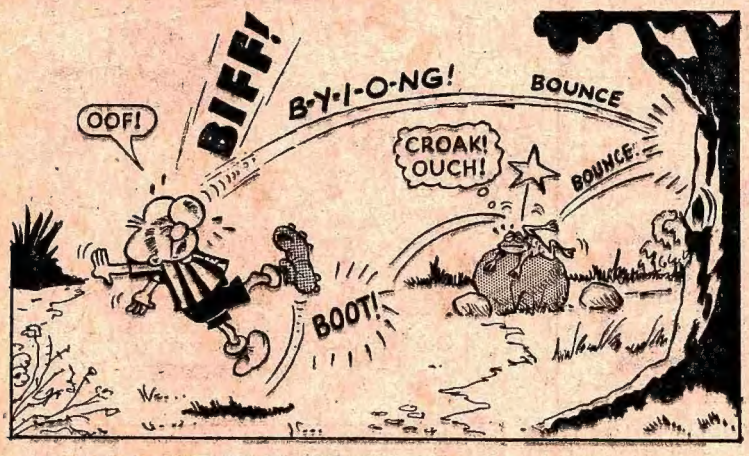

SUPER!
BOOT!


OOPS!
DRAMP!

ERK — TIME TO ORDER MYSELF OFF!
HOOLIGAN! HOOLIGAN!

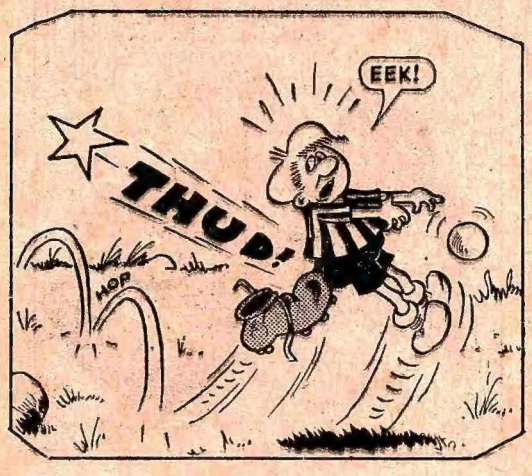

Soon—
CRASH!
OH, NO!
WHAP!

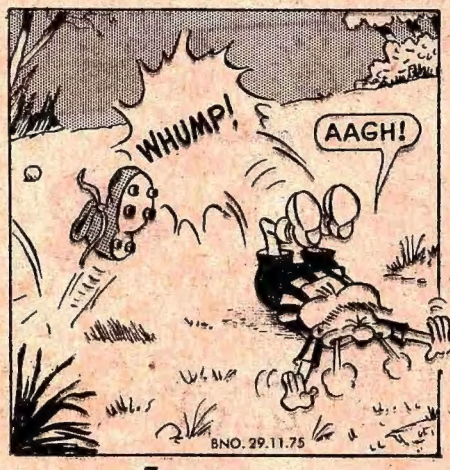
Later—
I'LL PLAY IN THE WOODS-CAN'T DO MUCH HARM HERE.


OOF!
BIFF!
B-Y-I-O-NG!
BOUNCE
CROAK! OUCH!
BOUNCE
BOOT!

I'M HAVING NO MORE KICKS WITH THAT BOOT!

That's what you think, Ball-boy—
HOP


EEK!
THUD!
HOP

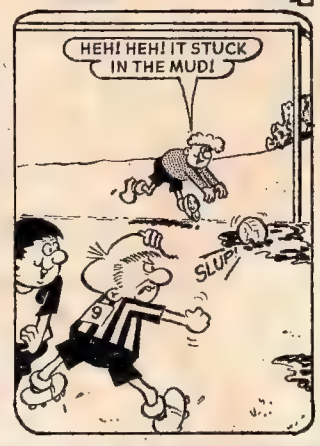

WHUMP!
AAGH!
BNO. 29.11.75

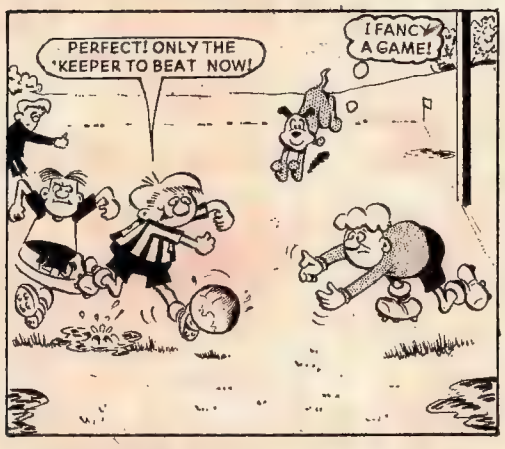
WAH! LET ME OUT OF HERE! THAT BOOT'S HAUNTED!
THAT'LL TEACH HIM!

# BALL BOY

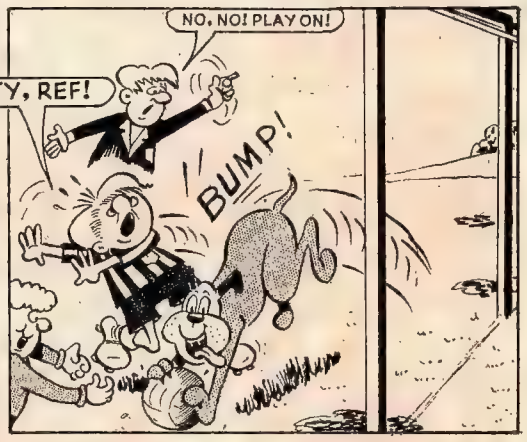
I'M PLAYING CENTRE TODAY, FANS—BOUND TO SCORE!
PHEEP!

Soon—
THAT MUST BE A GOAL!
BIFF!

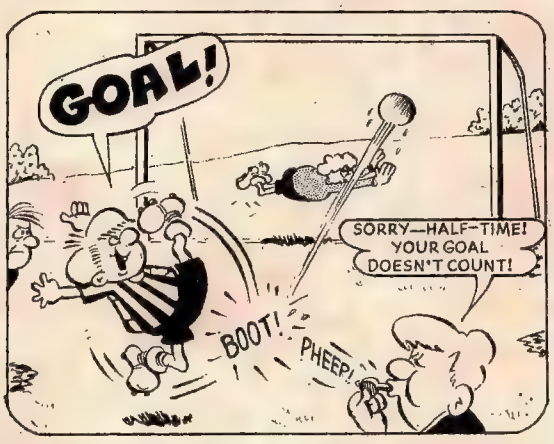

HEH! HEH! IT STUCK IN THE MUD!
SLUP!


PERFECT! ONLY THE 'KEEPER TO BEAT NOW!
I FANCY A GAME!

And—
I MUST SCORE THIS TIME!
SWERVE

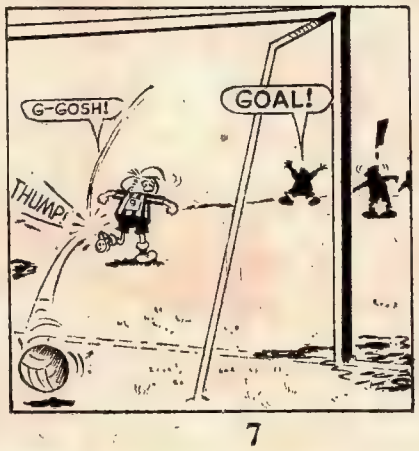

PENALTY, REF!
NO, NO! PLAY ON!
BUMP!

The dog is "sent off"—
I'LL TRY MY FEARED CANNON-BALL SHOT!
HOP
HOP


GOAL!
SORRY—HALF-TIME! YOUR GOAL DOESN'T COUNT!
BOOT!
PHEEP!

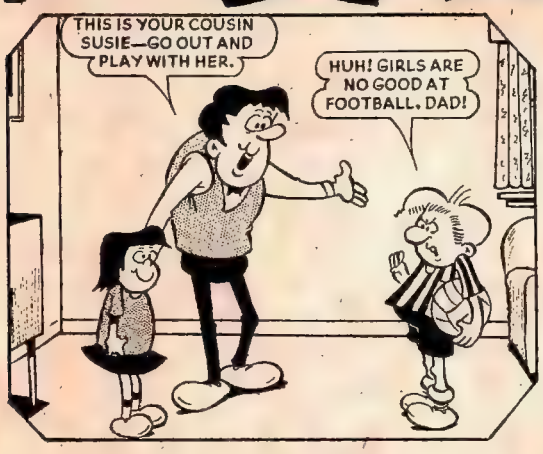
Later—
BAH! ONLY SECONDS TO GO AND I STILL HAVEN'T SCORED. I COULD KICK MYSELF!

IN FACT, I WILL!
8NO. 6.12.75.


G-GOSH!
GOAL!
THUMP!

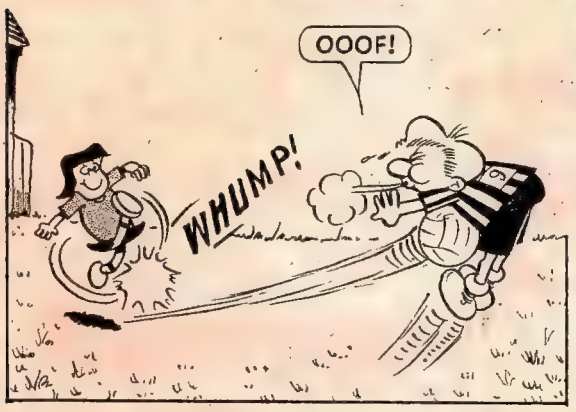
Full time—
SNORT! WE LOST ONE-NIL BECAUSE OF YOU!
I SCORED AFTER ALL, FANS—PUFF!—BUT AGAINST MY OWN TEAM!

# BALL BOY


THIS IS YOUR COUSIN SUSIE—GO OUT AND PLAY WITH HER.
HUH! GIRLS ARE NO GOOD AT FOOTBALL, DAD!

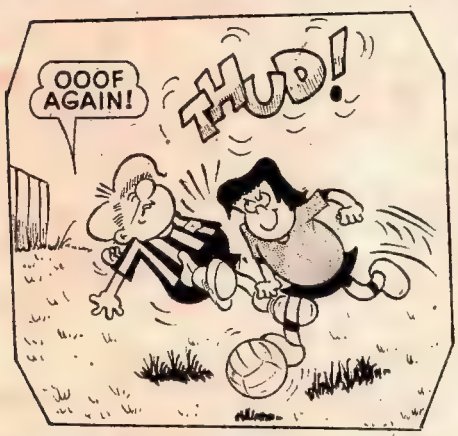
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS—BUT I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU TO PLAY FOOTBALL.

PRETEND I'M THE GOAL-KEEPER, AND HAVE A SHOT AT ME WITH THE BALL.

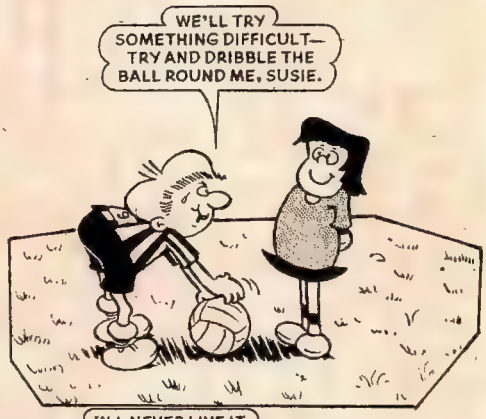

OOOF!
WHUMP!

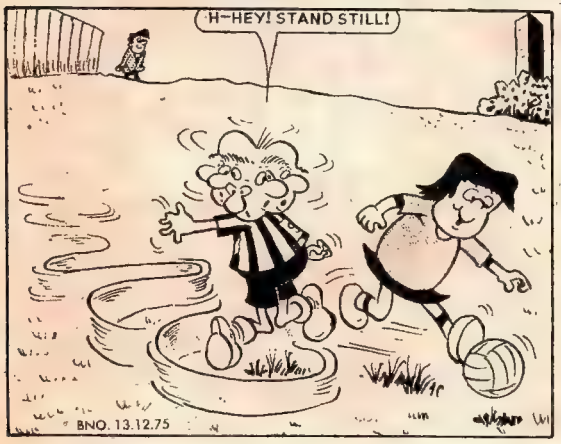
GASP! J-JUST BEGINNER'S LUCK, I SUPPOSE!

NOW TRY TO TACKLE ME. BUT BE CAREFUL YOU DON'T HURT YOURSELF.

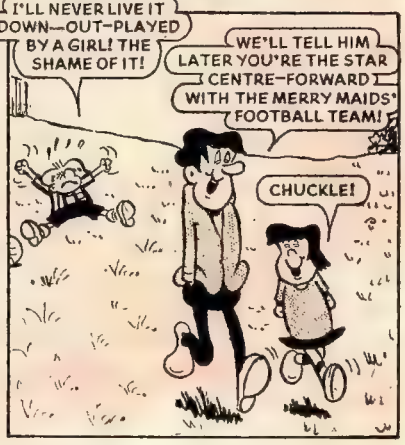

OOOF AGAIN!
THUD!

I DIDN'T HURT MYSELF!
WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME!


WE'LL TRY SOMETHING DIFFICULT—TRY AND DRIBBLE THE BALL ROUND ME, SUSIE.


H-HEY! STAND STILL!
BNO. 13.12.75

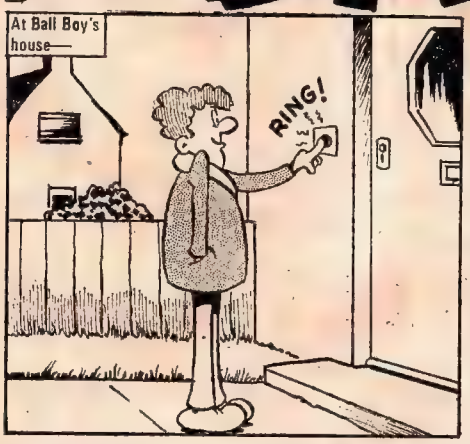
DIZZY
FLOP!


I'LL NEVER LIVE IT DOWN—OUT-PLAYED BY A GIRL! THE SHAME OF IT!
WE'LL TELL HIM LATER YOU'RE THE STAR CENTRE-FORWARD WITH THE MERRY MAIDS' FOOTBALL TEAM!
CHUCKLE!

# BALL BOY

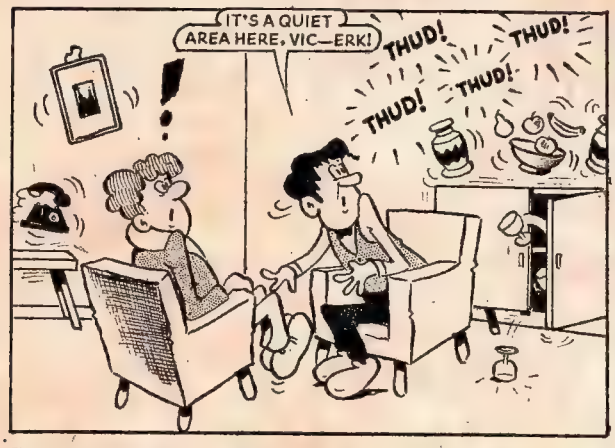
Christmas Morning—
I'M NOT GIVING MY SON THIS FOOTBALL TODAY, READERS—OR HE'LL IGNORE ALL HIS OTHER PRESENTS.
Seconds later—
GREAT! HOPE I GOT A FOOTBALL!
NO FOOTBALL IN THERE!
AND IF THERE'S A FOOTBALL IN THIS ONE, IT'S GOT A PUNCTURE!
Then—
AH! THIS LOOKS PROMISING!
But—
WHAT IN THE WORLD?... BAH! STILL NO FOOTBALL!
Later—
THE PLUM PUDDING SHOULD BE COOL ENOUGH TO PUT THE SAUCE ON NOW.
EEEK! IT'S GONE!
THERE'S YOUR PLUM PUDDING, MUM! HE'S GOING TO PLAY FOOTBALL WITH IT!
HOPE THIS WORKS.
BNO. 20.12.75
G-GIVE ME THAT!
DAD LET ME HAVE THE NEW FOOTBALL SO THE PLUM PUDDING WOULD BE SAFE! MERRY CHRISTMAS, FANS!
NEW SCARF
NEW BOOTS

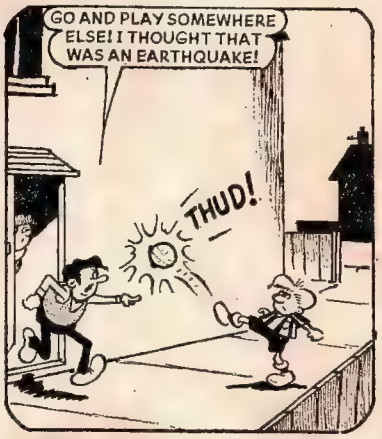
# BALL BOY

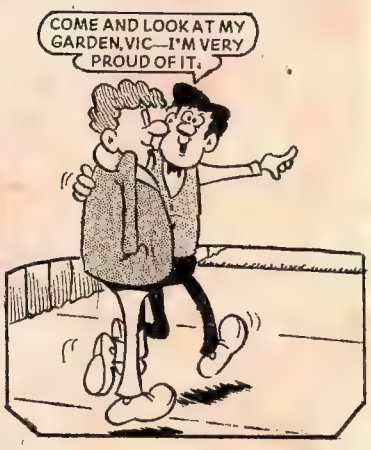

At Ball Boy's house—
RING!

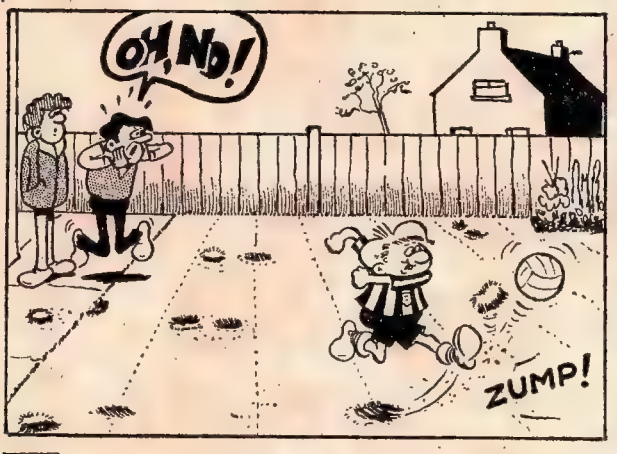
BEAT YOU EASILY, MISTER!
I—I'VE COME TO SEE YOUR FATHER.

I CAN ALMOST MAKE THIS BALL TALK!
AH! MY OLD PAL, VIC—HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR YEARS!


IT'S A QUIET AREA HERE, VIC—ERK!
THUD!
THUD!
THUD!
THUD!


GO AND PLAY SOMEWHERE ELSE! I THOUGHT THAT WAS AN EARTHQUAKE!
THUD!

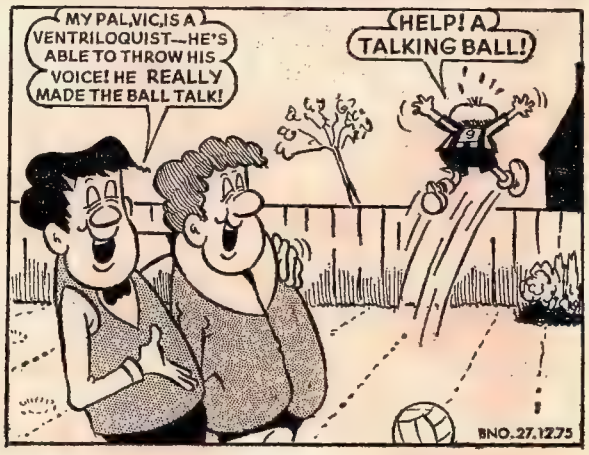

COME AND LOOK AT MY GARDEN, VIC—I'M VERY PROUD OF IT.


OH, NO!
ZUMP!

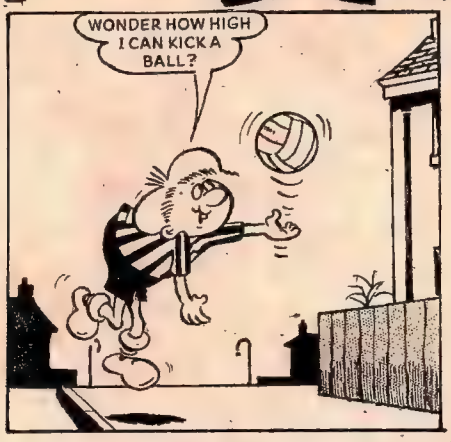
WANT TO SEE MY BALL CONTROL, MISTER? I'M SO GOOD I CAN ALMOST MAKE THE BALL TALK!
PEST!

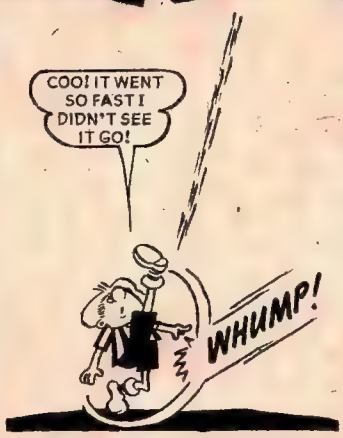
WATCH THIS!

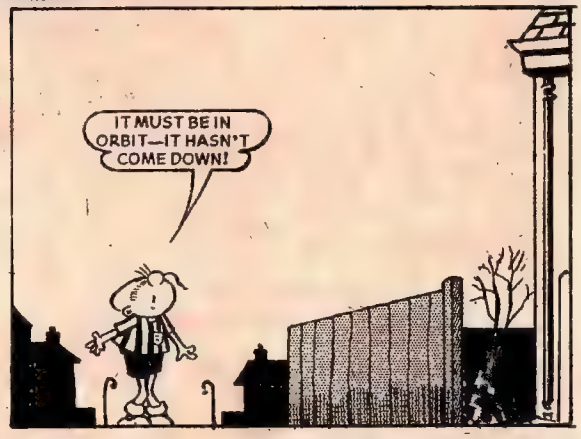
But—
STOP! DON'T KICK ME! IT HURTS!


MY PAL, VIC, IS A VENTRILOQUIST—HE'S ABLE TO THROW HIS VOICE! HE REALLY MADE THE BALL TALK!
HELP! A TALKING BALL!
BNO.27.1275

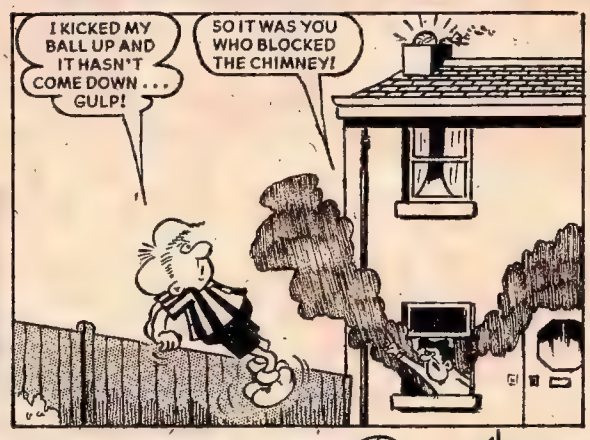
# BALL BOY

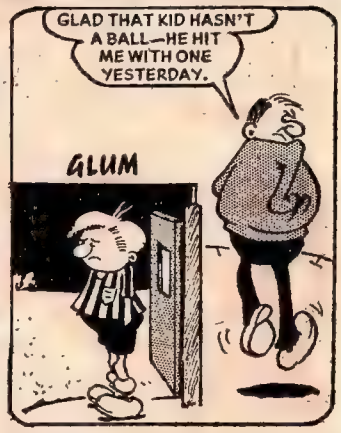

WONDER HOW HIGH I CAN KICK A BALL?


COO! IT WENT SO FAST I DIDN'T SEE IT GO!
WHUMP!

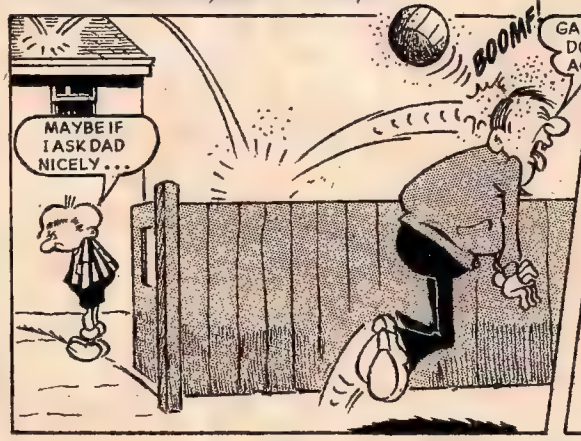

IT MUST BE IN ORBIT—IT HASN'T COME DOWN!

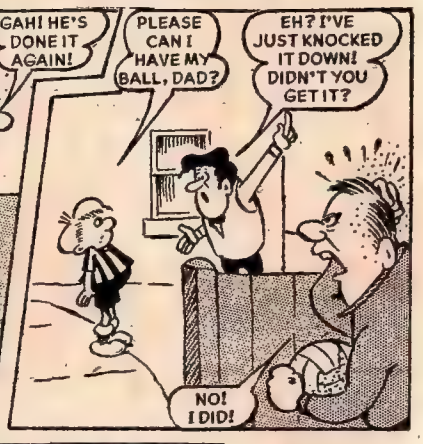
DAD! DAD! LISTEN TO THIS!

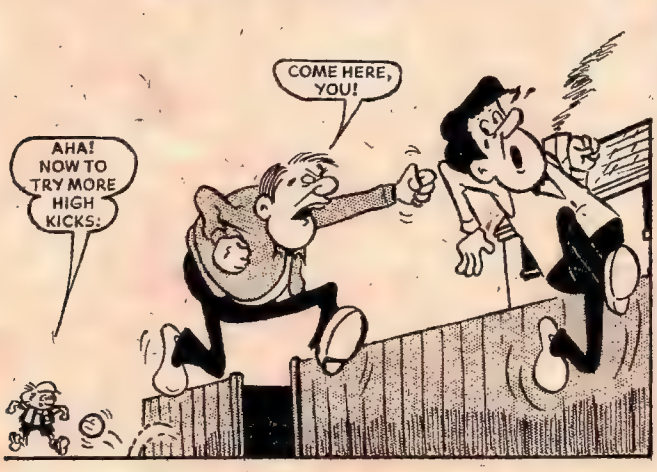

I KICKED MY BALL UP AND IT HASN'T COME DOWN . . . GULP!
SO IT WAS YOU WHO BLOCKED THE CHIMNEY!

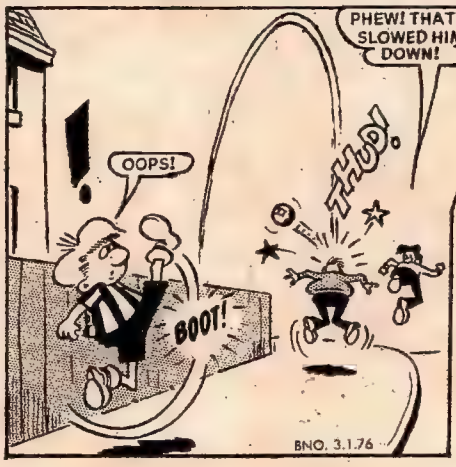

GLAD THAT KID HASN'T A BALL—HE HIT ME WITH ONE YESTERDAY.
GLUM

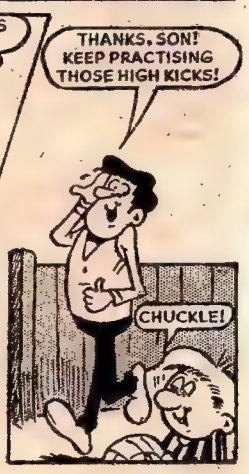
FHUMP!


MAYBE IF I ASK DAD NICELY . . .
BOOMF!

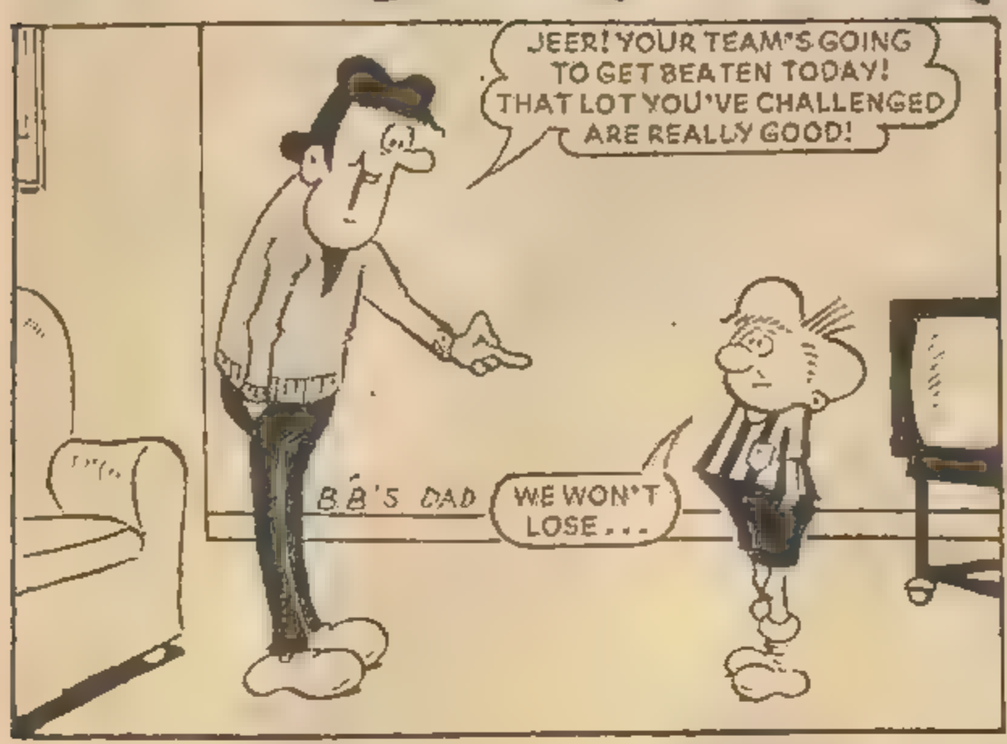

GAH! HE'S DONE IT AGAIN!
PLEASE CAN I HAVE MY BALL, DAD?
EH? I'VE JUST KNOCKED IT DOWN! DIDN'T YOU GET IT?
NO! I DID!


AHA! NOW TO TRY MORE HIGH KICKS:
COME HERE, YOU!

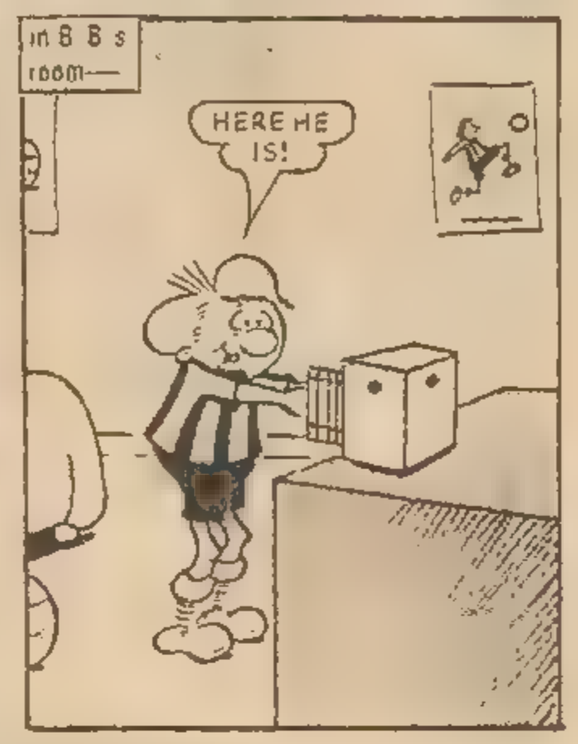

OOPS!
BOOT!
THUD!
PHEW! THAT'S SLOWED HIM DOWN!
BNO. 3.1.76


THANKS, SON! KEEP PRACTISING THOSE HIGH KICKS!
CHUCKLE!

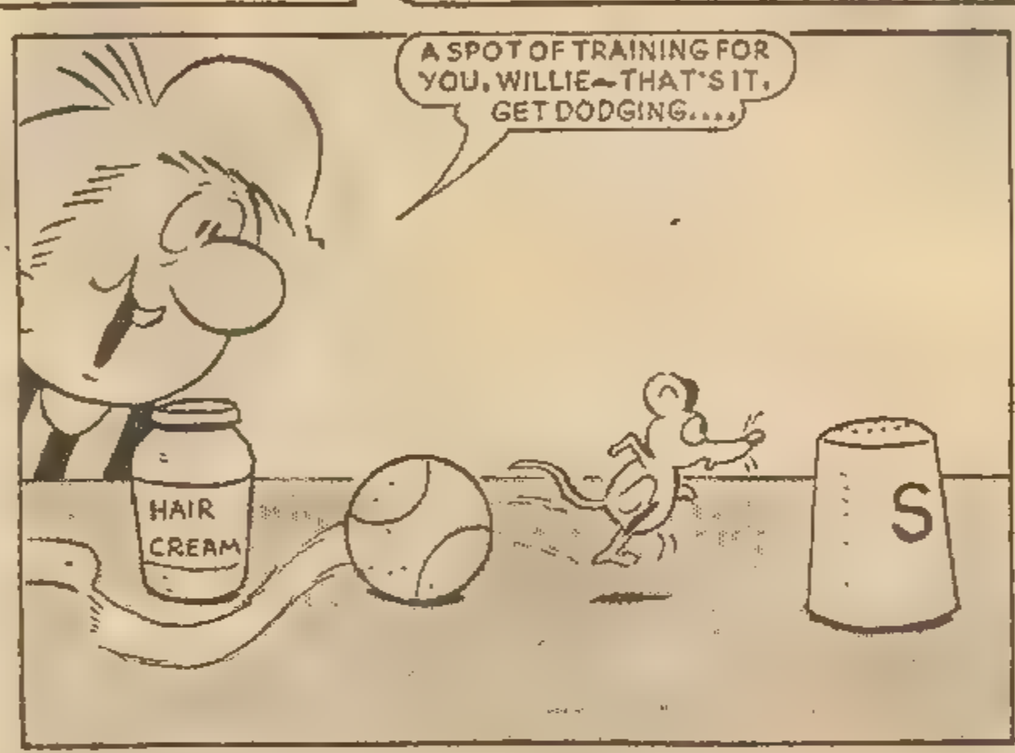
# BALL BOY


JEER! YOUR TEAM'S GOING TO GET BEATEN TODAY! THAT LOT YOU'VE CHALLENGED ARE REALLY GOOD!
B.B.'S DAD
WE WON'T LOSE...

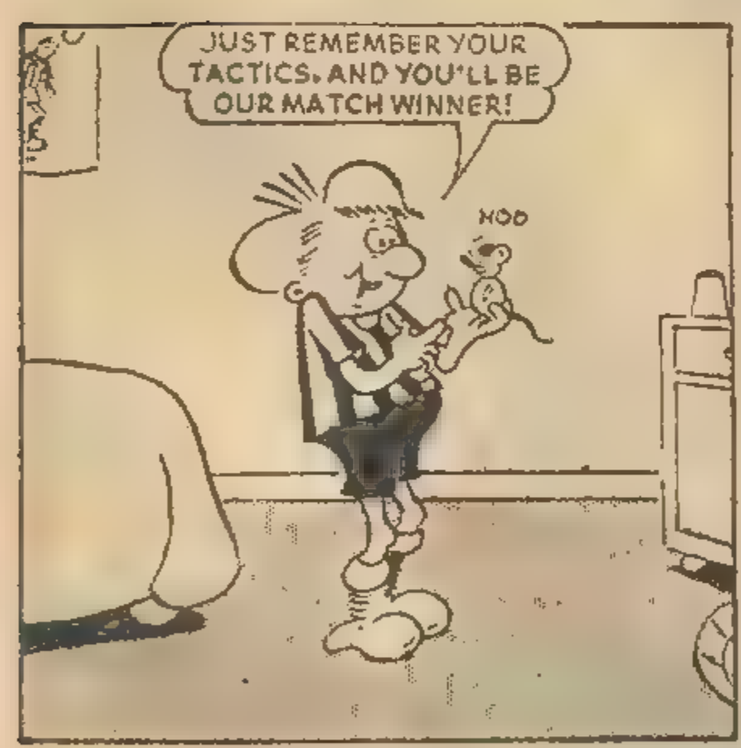
...I'VE SIGNED A NEW PLAYER SPECIALLY FOR TODAY'S GAME!

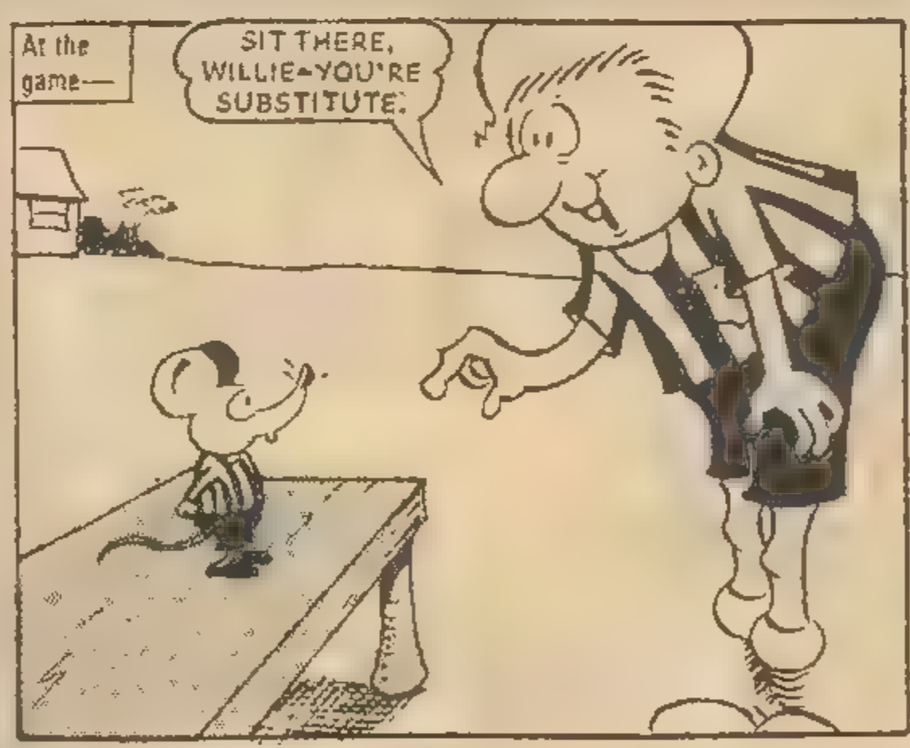

In B B's room—
HERE HE IS!

...MEET WILLIE!


A SPOT OF TRAINING FOR YOU, WILLIE—THAT'S IT, GET DODGING....
HAIR CREAM
S

AND JUMPING!


JUST REMEMBER YOUR TACTICS, AND YOU'LL BE OUR MATCH WINNER!
NOD


At the game—
SIT THERE, WILLIE—YOU'RE SUBSTITUTE!

THEY'RE HAMMERING US, B.B.!
YES—IT'S TIME TO MAKE A SUBSTITUTION.

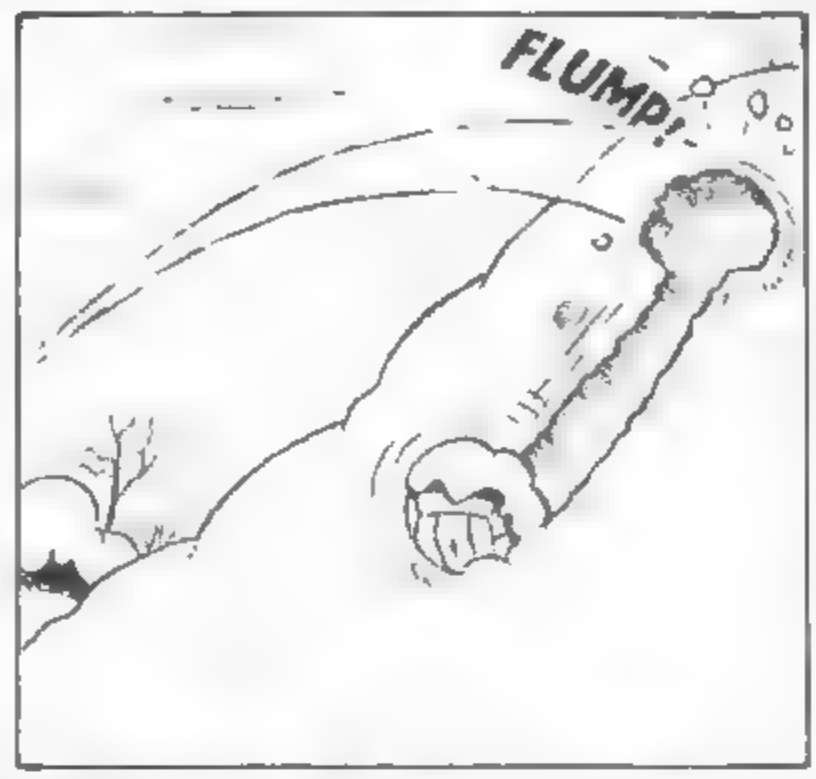
ON YOU COME, WILLIE!

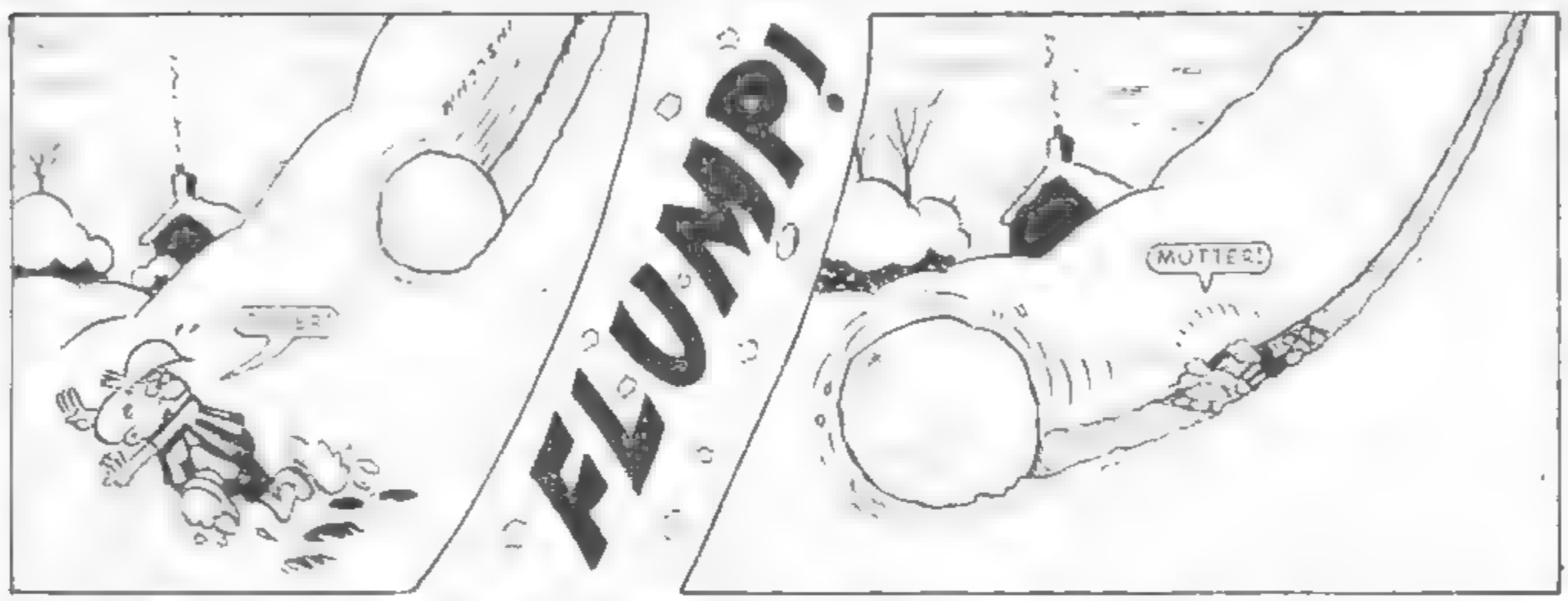
THAT'S THE WAY, WILLIE! NOW WE CAN BEAT PRIMROSE ST. UNITED GIRLS' TEAM!
SCREAMS!
SQUEAK!
BNO. 20 10 79
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!

# BALL BOY

IT'S GOING TO BE HARD PLAYING FOOTBALL WITH ALL THIS SNOW ABOUT, READERS.

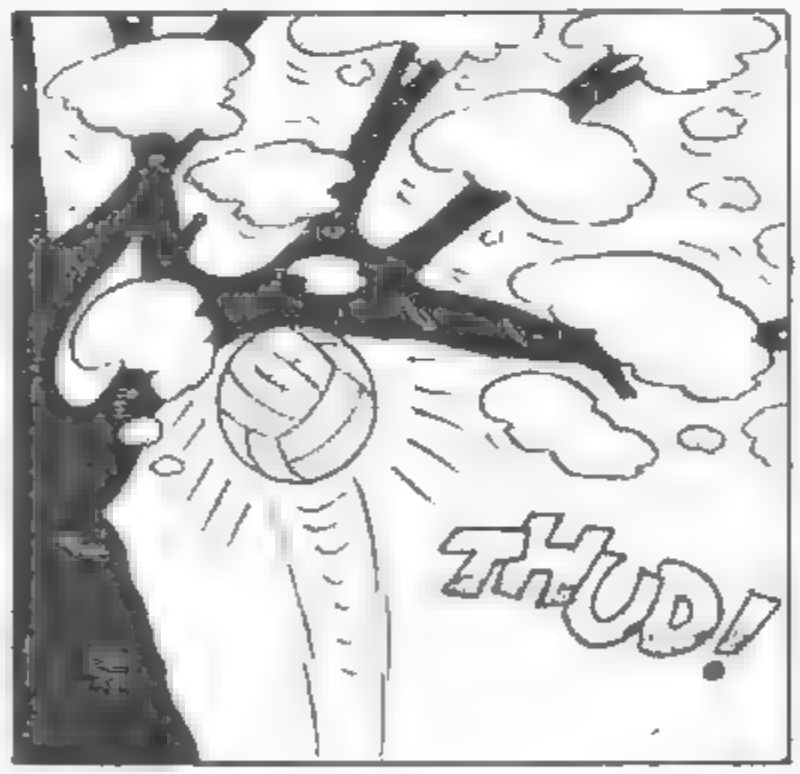
HERE GOES!
BOOT!

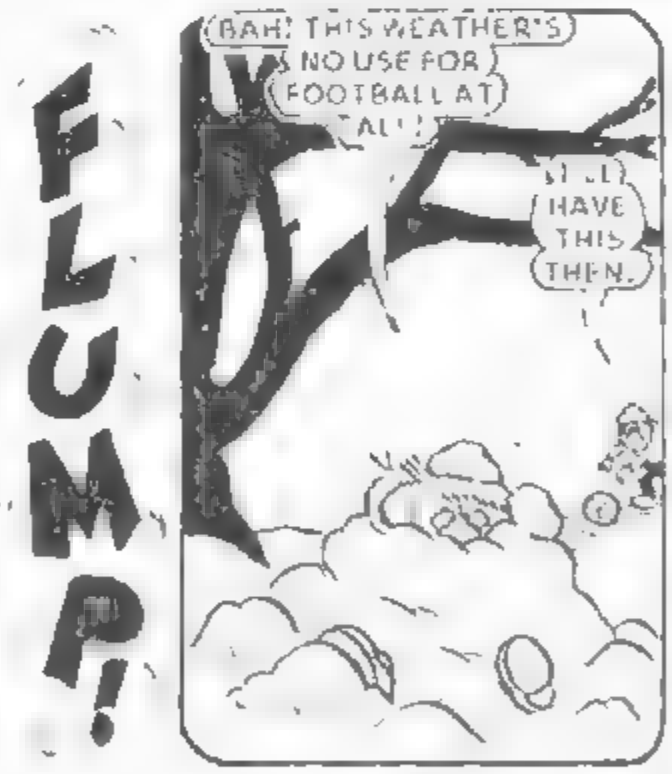

FLUMP!

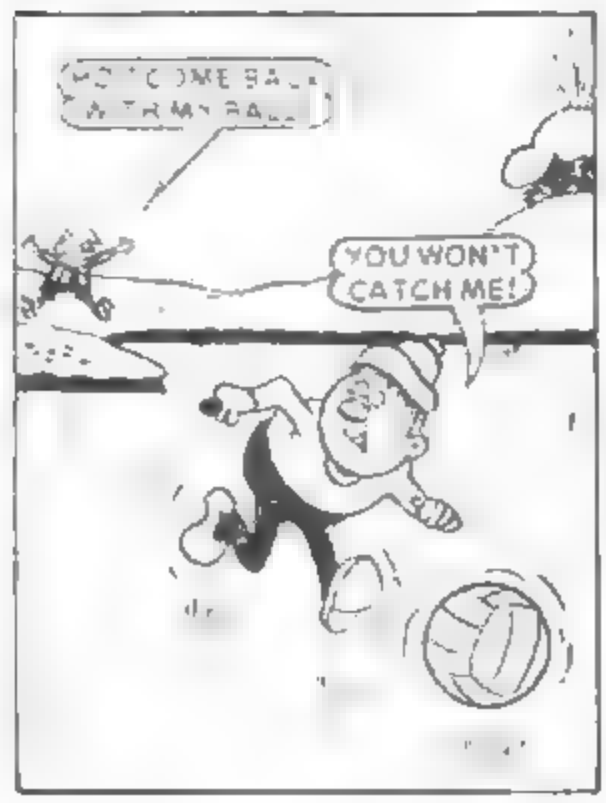

FLUMP!
MUTTER!

I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP THE BALL OFF THE GROUND.

BOOT!


THUD!


FLUMP!
BAH! THIS WEATHER'S NO USE FOR FOOTBALL AT ALL!
I'LL HAVE THIS THEN.


YOU WON'T CATCH ME!

IS THAT SO? WATCH THIS, FANS!

GRAB
HEH! HEH!
IT MIGHT BE BAD WEATHER FOR FOOTBALL BUT IT'S GREAT FOR SLIDING TACKLES!

# BALL BOY

I'M GOING TO HAVE TARGET PRACTICE FOR MY SHOOTING TODAY, FANS.

CUTE BACK HEELER

I'LL TRY MY GROUND SHOTS FIRST.

HUGH'S FOR SHOES

WHAT A SHOT! BANG ON TARGET!

THUD!

BOOT!

But—

OOYAH!

WHUMP!

COO! THAT MAN'S POSTING HIS NOSE!

BALL BOY'S DAD

OOPS! SORRY, DAD!

WELL, BE MORE CAREFUL IN FUTURE.

HUGH'S SHOE SHOP

THIS TIME I'LL AIM FOR THE MARK ON THE FENCE, READERS.

That mark is a nail, Ball Boy!

BANG ON!

HUGH'S FOR SHOES

BOOOMPH!

Bang on, all right—

BANG!

THUD!

OOH! WHAT WAS THAT?

AAAGH!

FUNNY MAN! FIRST HE POSTS HIS NOSE—THEN HE TRIES SHOES ON HIS HEAD!

THAT WAS YOUR FAULT!

HAVE TO RUN, FANS—DAD DOESN'T NEED ANY TARGET PRACTICE WITH A SLIPPER!

BNO. 24.1.76

# BALL BOY

YEEEOUCH! MY SHIN!
SO SORRY!
WHAT YOU NEED IS A PAIR OF SHIN-PADS, SONNY.
OH, AH, OW, EE!
RUB! RUB! RUB!
But—
I CAN'T AFFORD THAT! MUST THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE!
SHIN PADS £1·50 PER PAIR
SPORTS SHOP
Later—
HEY! THERE WERE SIX NEW WRITING PADS IN HERE THIS MORNING!
CHUCKLE! THESE ARE REAL "SHIN" PADS!
STUFF! STUFF!
Back at the game—
I'M WELL PROTECTED NOW!
SPLISH! SPLISH! SPLASH! SPLASH!
But, by half-time—
HA! HA!
YEEOUCH!
SOGGY PULPY MESS
HEH! HEH!
THEY'LL HAVE WHAT I WANT IN HERE.
MUSEUM
BE SURE TO BRING THAT LEG ARMOUR BACK—IT BELONGS TO THE WHITE KNIGHT'S BEST SUNDAY SUIT.
OK!
AAAGH! MY TOE!
THIS ARMOUR'S GREAT! I DIDN'T FEEL A THING!
CLANG!
BNO. 31.1.76
The score is 2-2 with seconds to go—
QUICK! NIP IN AND SCORE, BALL BOY!
STUCK!
FAST AS A SNAIL
THESE ARE GOOD SHIN-PADS. BUT THEY AREN'T HALF HEAVY!
BAH! NOW I'VE GOT TO "SHIN" UP THIS DRAINPIPE FOR SAFETY!
BAH! IT WAS FULL-TIME BEFORE HE REACHED THE BALL!
WE COULD HAVE WON!

# BALL BOY

I'M OFF TO SUPPORT THE ROVERS IN TODAY'S BIG GAME, READERS!
CLACK!
CLACKITY!
CLACK!
CLACKITY!

YIKES! THE HEAD'S COME OFF MY RATTLE!
CLONK!
OOF!

SNORT!
BAH! I'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER RATTLE NOW!

Soon—
COO! THANKS!
UGGLE!
RATTLE!

NOT BAD!
RATTLE!
RATTLE!
HA! HA!

WHO'S A LOVELY BOY, THEN? CHUCKLE!
DO YOU SUPPORT A JUNIOR TEAM?
BLUSH

I'LL HAVE THAT BACK!
OOOW!

Soon—
ZOO
. . . HMM!

But—
NO—YOU CAN'T BORROW SIX RATTLESNAKES JUST FOR THE AFTERNOON!
OOOF!

Later—
AH! JUST WHAT I WANT!

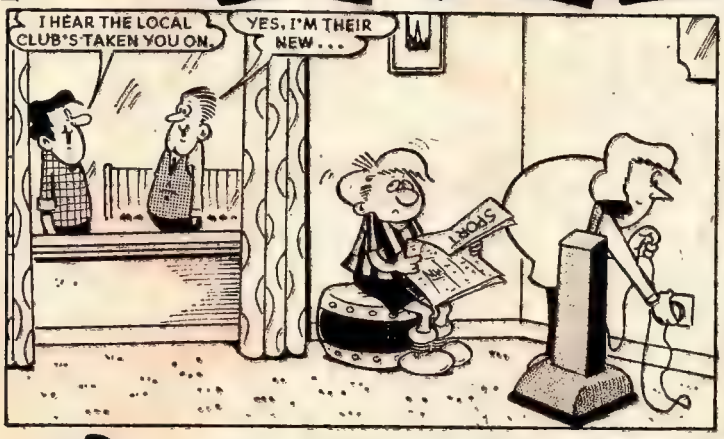
IS THERE A DENTIST AROUND HERE?
SHORT-SIGHTED
I'M A DENTIST—DIDN'T YOU SEE THE SIGN OUTSIDE?

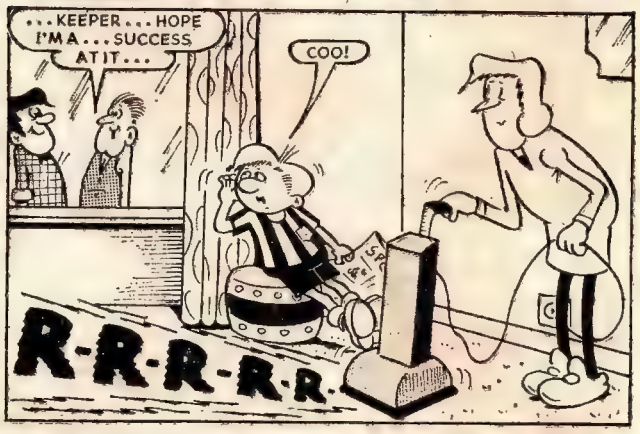
ERK! SOMEONE'S PINCHED MY SIGN!

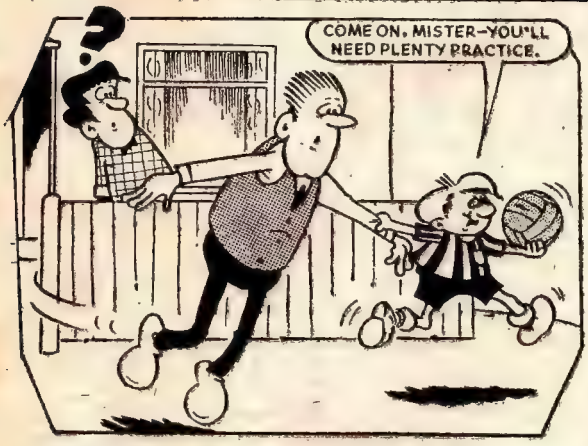
BNO. 7.2.76

Here's who—
UP THE ROVERS!
SUPER RATTLE, THIS—PITY I'VE TO RETURN IT AFTER THE MATCH!
CLACKITY CLACK!
RATTLE!
RATTLE!

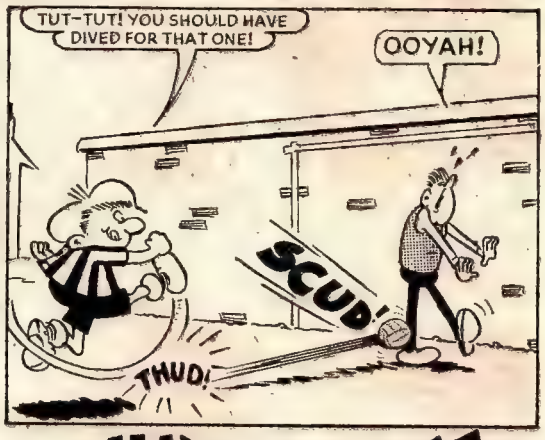
# BALL BOY

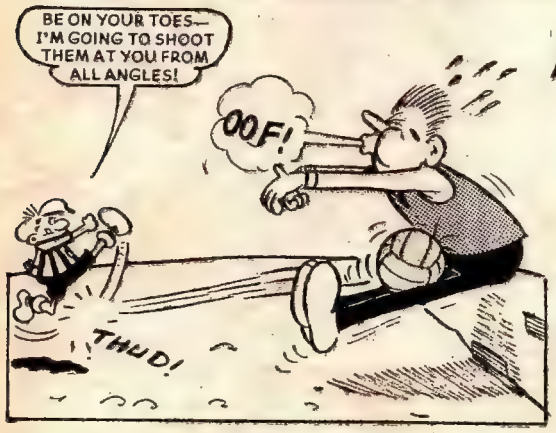

I HEAR THE LOCAL CLUB'S TAKEN YOU ON.
YES, I'M THEIR NEW...
SPORT


...KEEPER... HOPE I'M A... SUCCESS AT IT...
COO!
R-R-R-R-R-


COME ON, MISTER—YOU'LL NEED PLENTY PRACTICE.
?

STAND THERE—THAT'S IT. I'LL TRY YOU WITH LOW SHOTS FIRST.
?

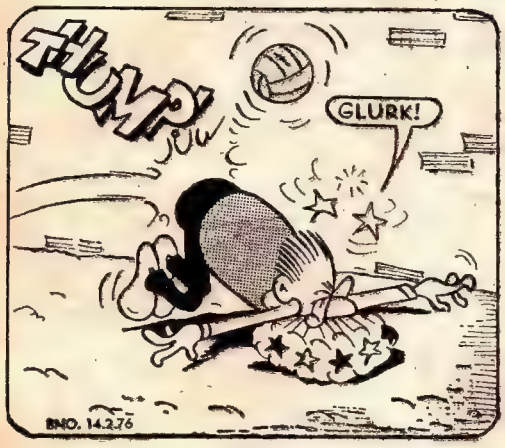

TUT-TUT! YOU SHOULD HAVE DIVED FOR THAT ONE!
OOYAH!
SCUD!
THUD!


BE ON YOUR TOES—I'M GOING TO SHOOT THEM AT YOU FROM ALL ANGLES!
OOF!
THUD!

WHAM!
YEEOOW!

THUD!
EEK!

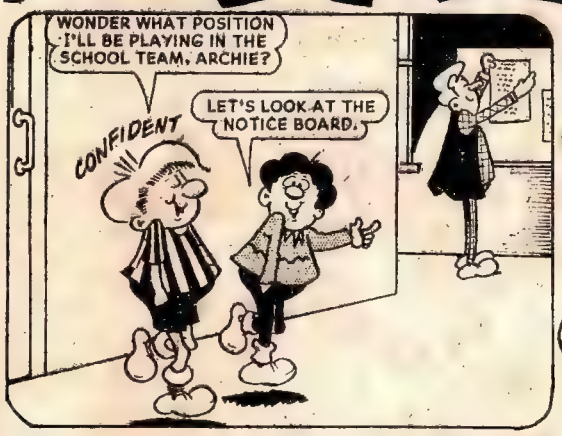
BIFF!
OOOF!


THUMP!
GLURK!
BNO. 14.2.76

I DON'T KNOW WHY THE LOCAL CLUB MADE YOU GOALKEEPER! YOU'RE HOPELESS!
!

GOALKEEPER? I'M THE NEW GREEN-KEEPER AT THE LOCAL GOLF CLUB!
OO—ER! I'VE BLUNDERED!

# BALL BOY


WONDER WHAT POSITION I'LL BE PLAYING IN THE SCHOOL TEAM, ARCHIE?
CONFIDENT
LET'S LOOK AT THE NOTICE BOARD.

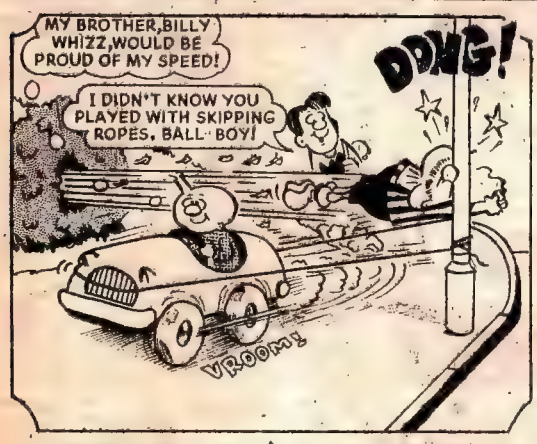
SORRY, BALL BOY—I WANT TO GIVE SOME OTHER LADS A CHANCE.
EH? I'VE BEEN DROPPED!
SCHOOL TEAM
FARMER
KERR
WILSON
PEARCE
SMITH
SPENCE
HEGGIE
HARVEY
BERNARD
WATSON
YOUNG

Saturday morning—
THIS IS AWFUL—I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF!
WANDERING AIMLESSLY

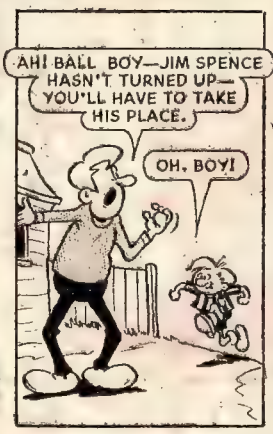
Shortly—
THERE GOES ANDY PEARCE TO THE MATCH—I'LL TIE HIM UP AND TAKE HIS PLACE!

OWWCH!
DONK!
PLAYING COWBOYS AND INDIANS, BALL BOY?

Then—
NEVER MIND—I'LL TRIP UP ALAN HARVEY, AND . . .

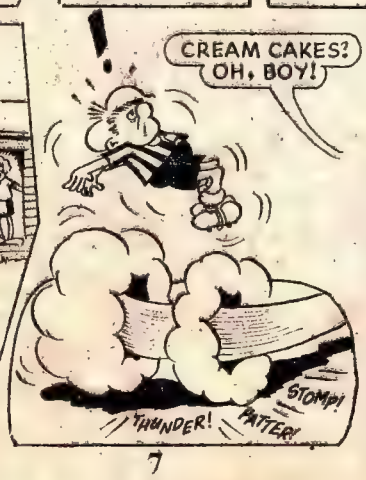

MY BROTHER, BILLY WHIZZ, WOULD BE PROUD OF MY SPEED!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU PLAYED WITH SKIPPING ROPES, BALL BOY!
DONG!
VROOM!

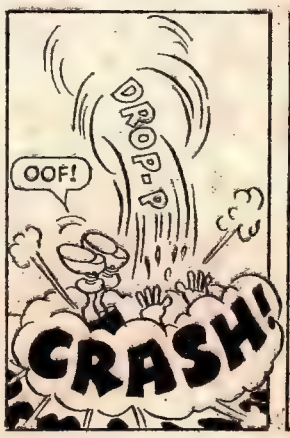
I GIVE UP—I'LL GO AND WATCH THE GAME INSTEAD.


AH! BALL BOY—JIM SPENCE HASN'T TURNED UP—YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIS PLACE.
OH, BOY!

WHEE! MY HAT-TRICK!
WHAP!
GOAL!

THREE CHEERS FOR BALL BOY!
COME ON, BOYS—CREAM CAKES FOR THE WINNERS!
BNO. 21.2.76.


CREAM CAKES? OH, BOY!
THUNDER!
PATTER!
STOMP!

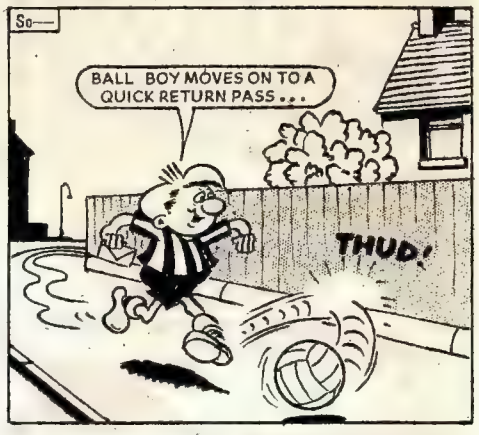

OOF!
DROP-P
CRASH!

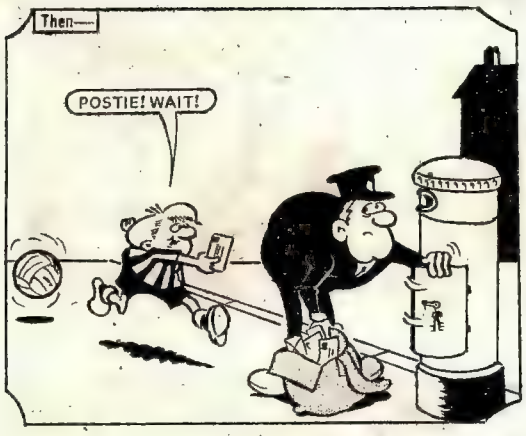
HOW DID YOU GET INJURED, BALL BOY? I THOUGHT YOU WERE DROPPED?
I WAS—I WAS!

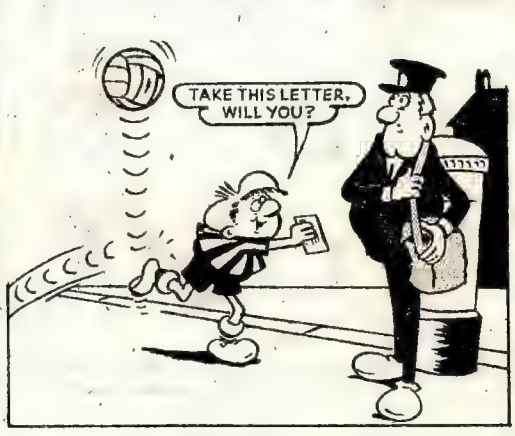
# BALL BOY

TUM-TE-TUM-TE-TUM-TUM!
KICK! KICK! KICK!
EXPERT CONTROL

WILL YOU POST A LETTER FOR ME, SON?
CERTAINLY, MUM!

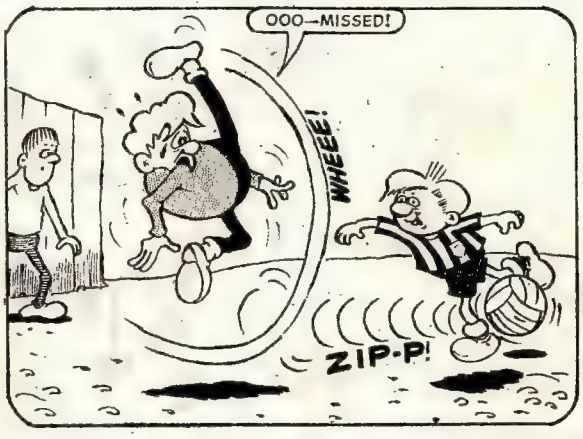

So—
BALL BOY MOVES ON TO A QUICK RETURN PASS...
THUD!


Then—
POSTIE! WAIT!


TAKE THIS LETTER, WILL YOU?

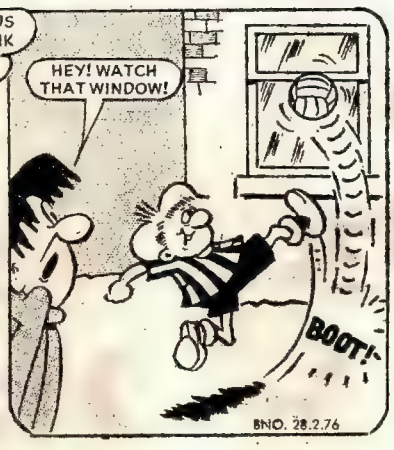
WATCH ME KICK THAT BALL AWAY FROM BALL BOY!

BALL BOY MUST AVOID A CRUNCHING TACKLE BY THE CENTRE BACK!

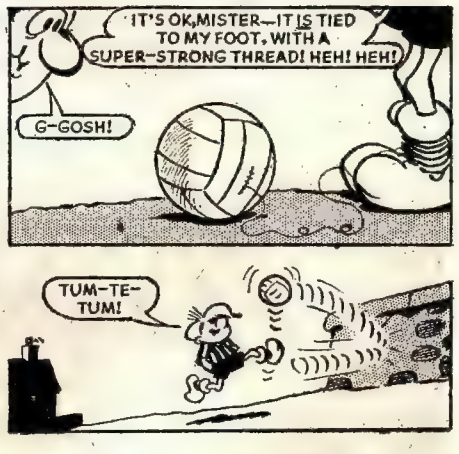

OOO—MISSED!
WHEEE!
ZIP-P!

H—HOW DID HE DO IT?

I SAW THAT MARVELLOUS SKILL, SON! YOU'D THINK THE BALL WAS TIED TO YOUR FOOT!


HEY! WATCH THAT WINDOW!
BOOT!
BNO. 28.2.76

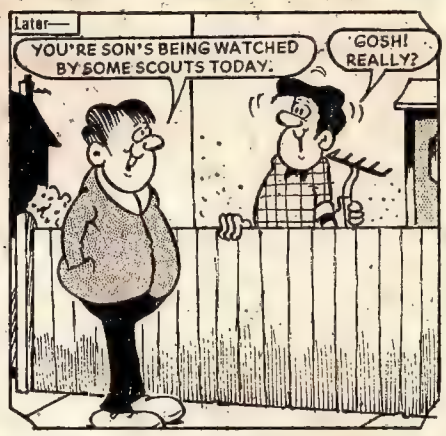
But—
COO!
TWANG!

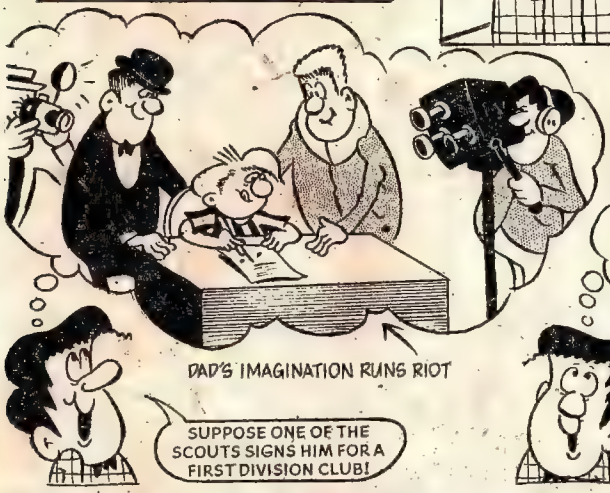

IT'S OK, MISTER—IT IS TIED TO MY FOOT, WITH A SUPER-STRONG THREAD! HEH! HEH!
G-GOSH!
TUM-TE-TUM!

# BALL BOY

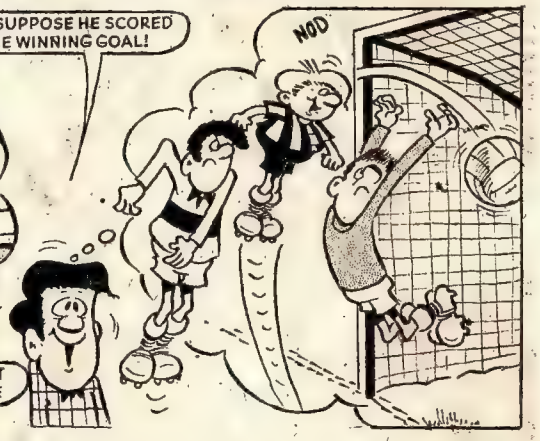
OUR TEAM'S GOT A GAME IN THE PARK TODAY, DAD!

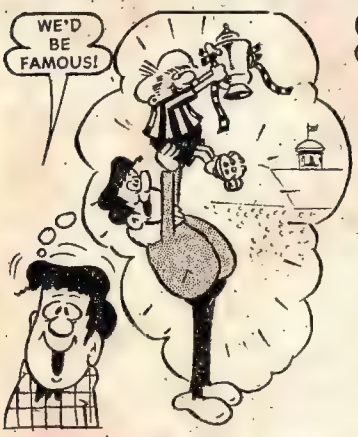
YOU'LL COME TO NO GOOD PLAYING FOOTBALL ALL THE TIME— OH, WHAT'S THE USE?
SLAM!


Later—
YOU'RE SON'S BEING WATCHED BY SOME SCOUTS TODAY.
GOSH! REALLY?


DAD'S IMAGINATION RUNS RIOT
SUPPOSE ONE OF THE SCOUTS SIGNS HIM FOR A FIRST DIVISION CLUB!

BEST STAND SEATS
HE'D BE ABLE TO GET ME TICKETS FOR THE CUP FINAL!


AND SUPPOSE HE SCORED THE WINNING GOAL!
NOD

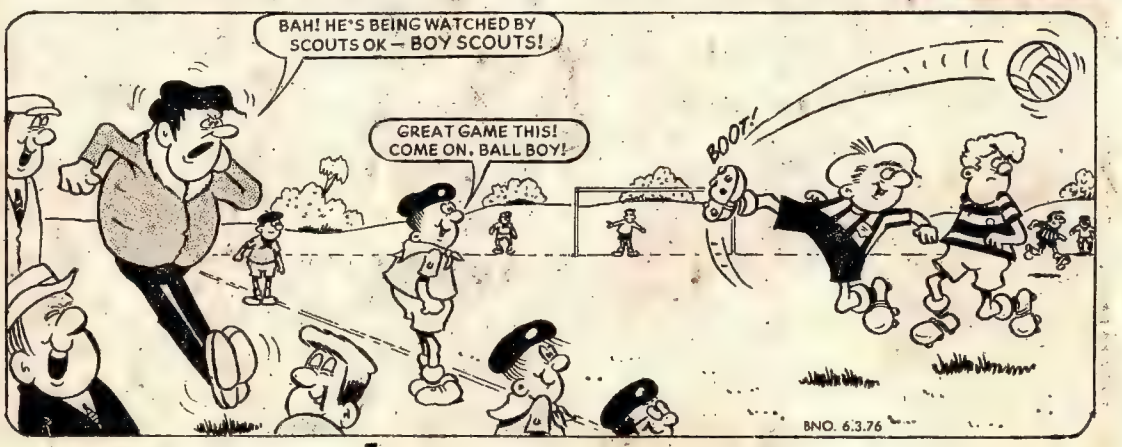

WE'D BE FAMOUS!

I'D BETTER GET DOWN TO THE PARK AND GIVE HIM SOME SUPPORT!

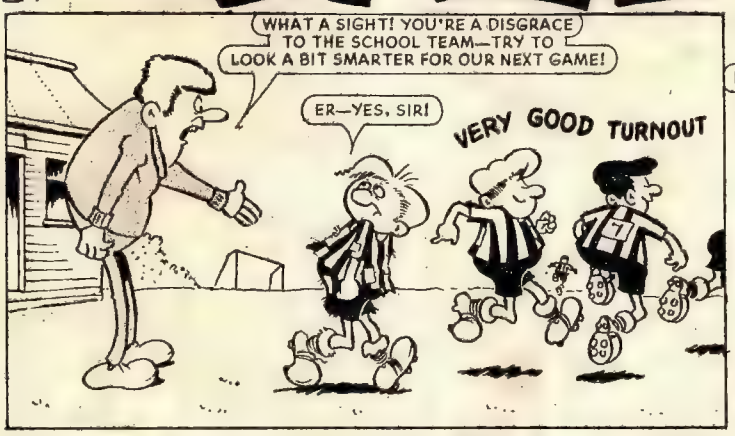
COME AND SEE MY SON— SOME TOP SCOUTS ARE WATCHING HIM!
REALLY?
COO!
GOSH!

OF COURSE, HE TAKES HIS FOOTBALL SKILLS FROM ME! BOAST-BOAST-BLAH-BLAH!
PARK

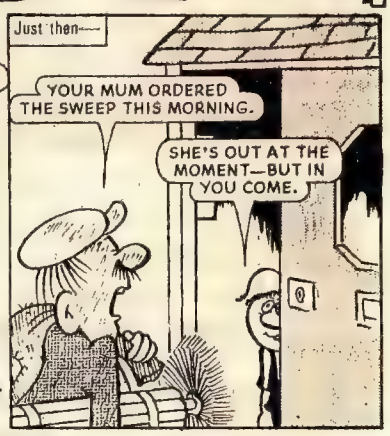
But—
GULP!

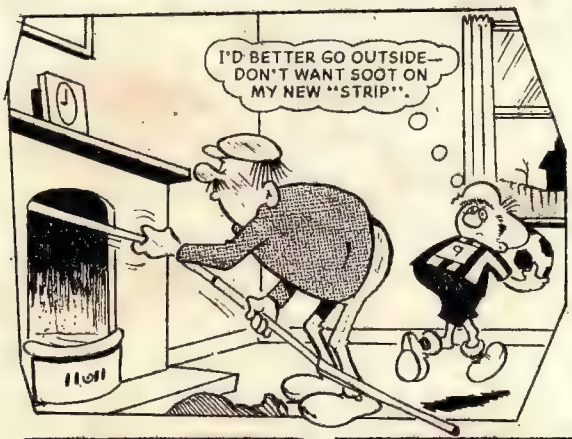

BAH! HE'S BEING WATCHED BY SCOUTS OK — BOY SCOUTS!
GREAT GAME THIS! COME ON, BALL BOY!
BOOT!
BNO. 6.3.76

# BALL BOY

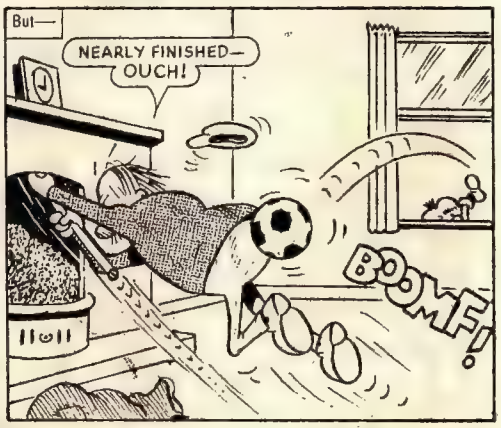

WHAT A SIGHT! YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO THE SCHOOL TEAM—TRY TO LOOK A BIT SMARTER FOR OUR NEXT GAME!
ER—YES, SIR!
VERY GOOD TURNOUT

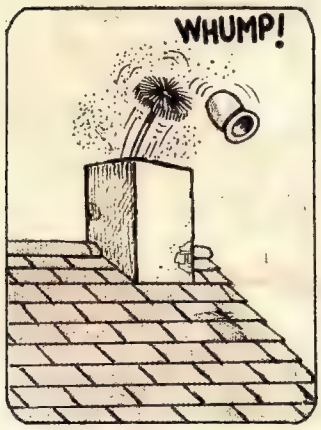
The following Saturday—
LOOK, FANS—MUM BOUGHT ME A NEW "STRIP"—I'LL BE THE SMARTEST MAN IN THE TEAM!
DEAD SMART

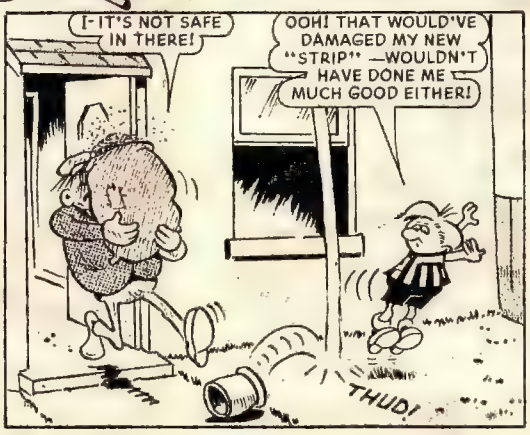

Just then—
YOUR MUM ORDERED THE SWEEP THIS MORNING.
SHE'S OUT AT THE MOMENT—BUT IN YOU COME.

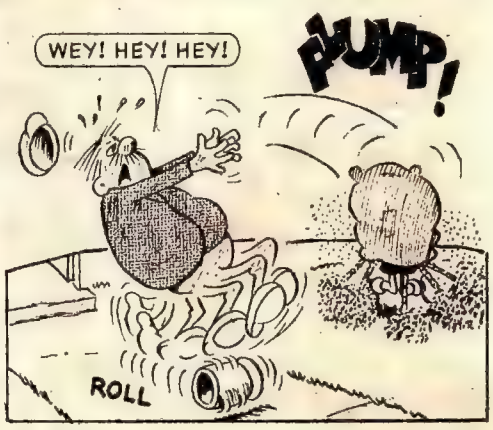

I'D BETTER GO OUTSIDE—DON'T WANT SOOT ON MY NEW "STRIP".

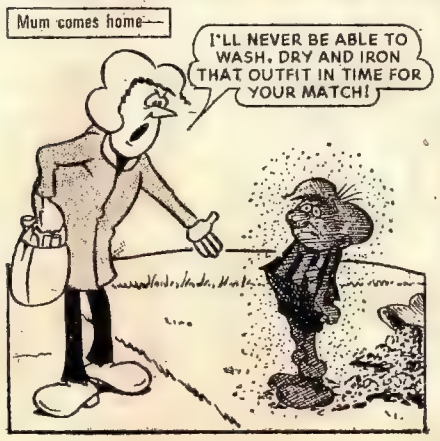
I'LL PRACTICE MY OVER-HEAD KICKS.

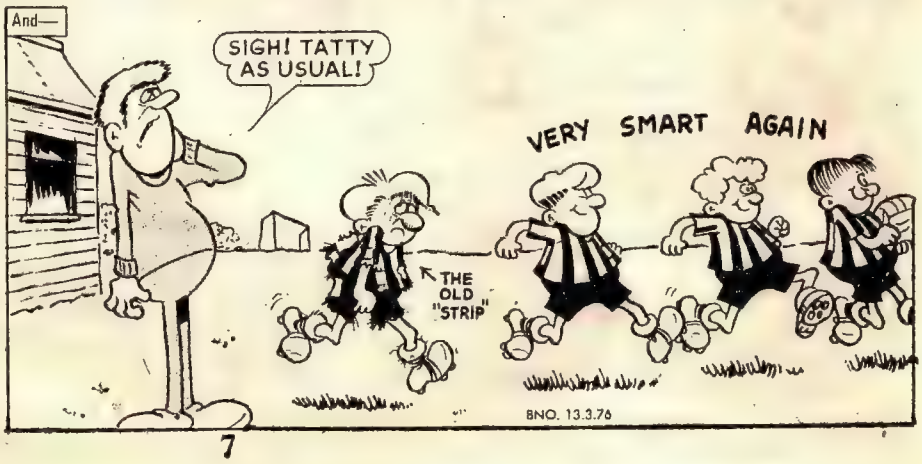

But—
NEARLY FINISHED—OUCH!
BOOMF!


WHUMP!

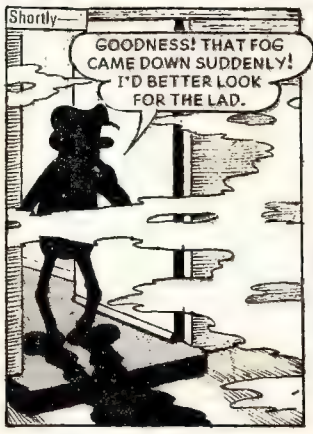

I-IT'S NOT SAFE IN THERE!
OOH! THAT WOULD'VE DAMAGED MY NEW "STRIP" —WOULDN'T HAVE DONE ME MUCH GOOD EITHER!
THUD!

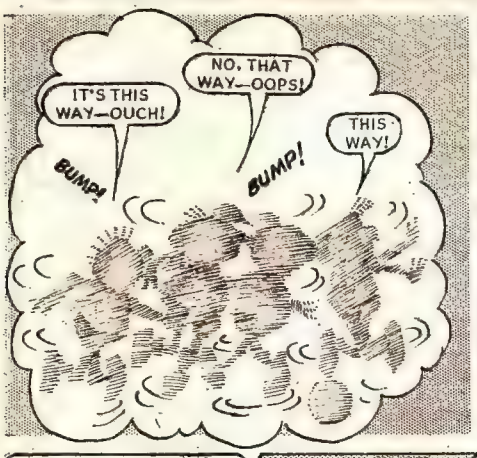

WEY! HEY! HEY!
PUMP!
ROLL

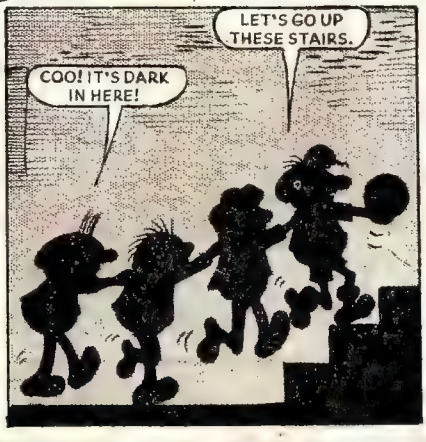

Mum comes home—
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO WASH, DRY AND IRON THAT OUTFIT IN TIME FOR YOUR MATCH!


And—
SIGH! TATTY AS USUAL!
THE OLD "STRIP"
VERY SMART AGAIN
BNO. 13.3.76

# BALL BOY





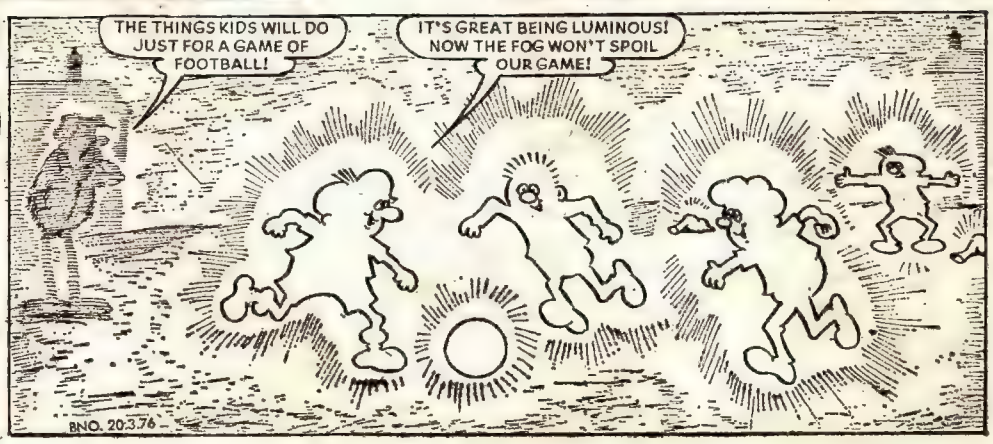



SPLASH!

SPLOSH!

SPLASH!

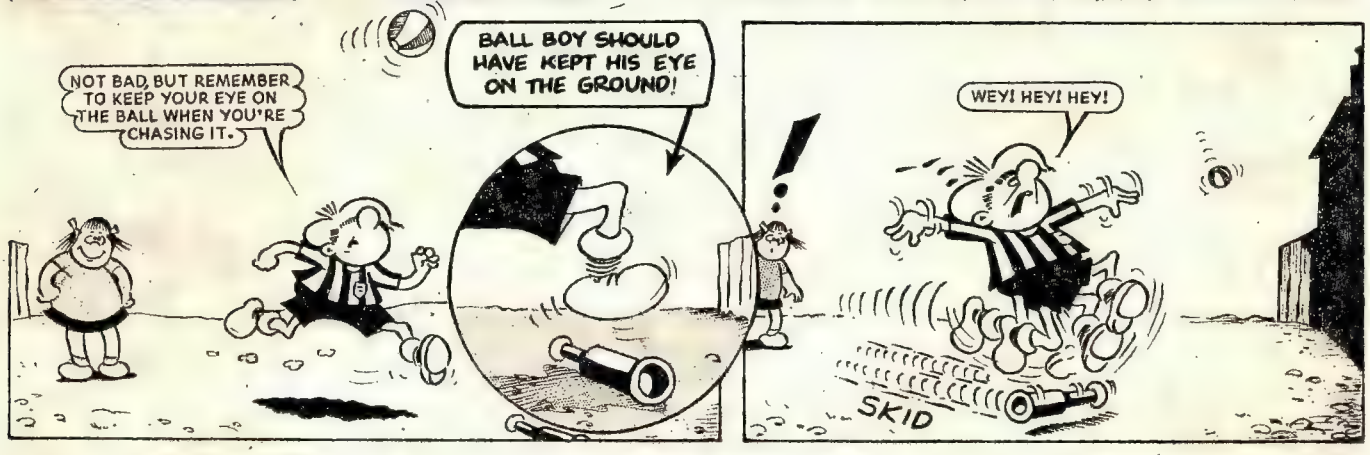
SPLOSH!

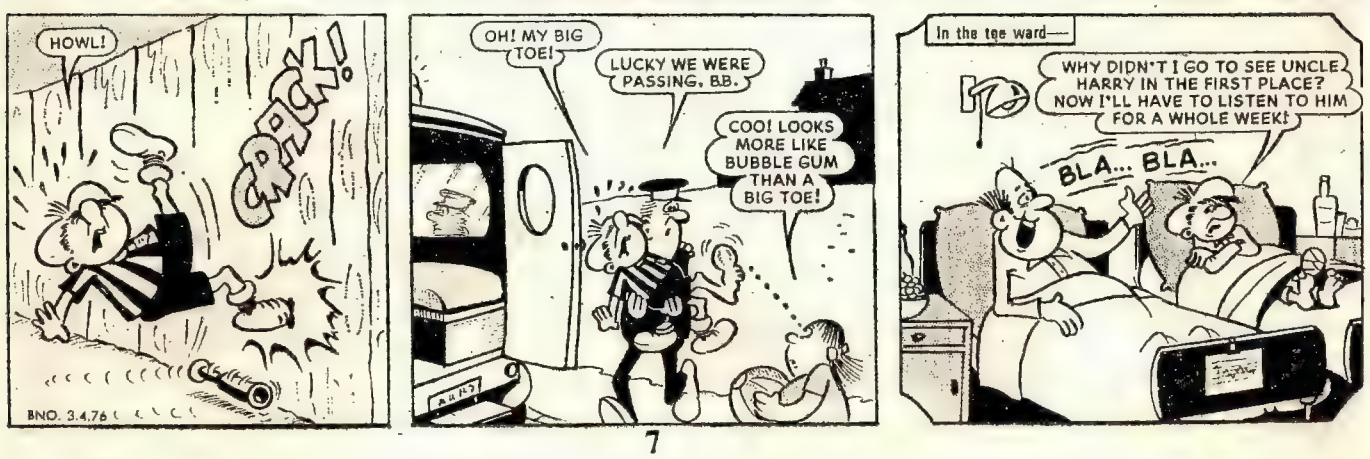


# BALL BOY

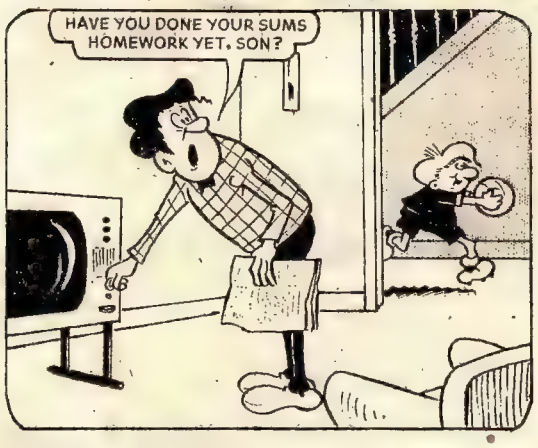
I'M OFF TO GET A GAME OF FOOTBALL, DAD.
YOU'RE NOT! I WANT YOU TO GO AND SEE UNCLE HARRY.—HE'S IN HOSPITAL WITH A SORE TOE.
AW, DAD, NOT UNCLE HARRY! HE NEVER STOPS TALKING!
NO ARGUING—GO AND SEE HIM!
Shortly—
HEH! I'VE GOT DAD'S TELESCOPE—NOW I WON'T BE TELLING A FIB WHEN I SAY I SAW UNCLE HARRY IN THE HOSPITAL!
UNCLE HARRY

NOW FOR A SPOT OF FOOTBALL. THERE'S BELLE TOPP WITH A BALL—I'LL GIVE HER A FEW FOOTBALL TIPS.
HI, B.B.
LET ME SHOW YOU HOW TO CROSS A HIGH BALL, BELLE.
OH, YOU MEAN . . .
. . . LIKE THIS?
BLOOTER!
COO!


NOT BAD, BUT REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL WHEN YOU'RE CHASING IT.
BALL BOY SHOULD HAVE KEPT HIS EYE ON THE GROUND!
!
WEY! HEY! HEY!
SKID

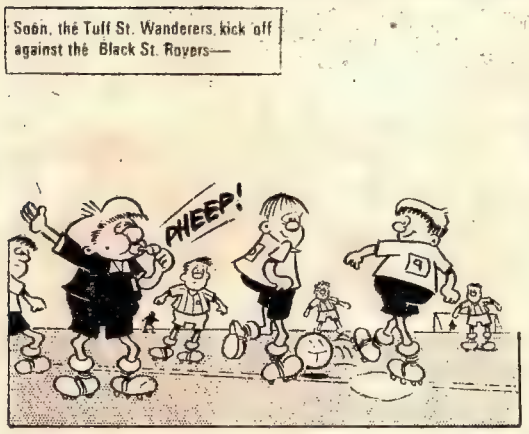

HOWL!
CRACK!
BNO. 3.4.76
OH! MY BIG TOE!
LUCKY WE WERE PASSING, B.B.
COO! LOOKS MORE LIKE BUBBLE GUM THAN A BIG TOE!
In the tee ward—
WHY DIDN'T I GO TO SEE UNCLE HARRY IN THE FIRST PLACE? NOW I'LL HAVE TO LISTEN TO HIM FOR A WHOLE WEEK!
BLA... BLA...

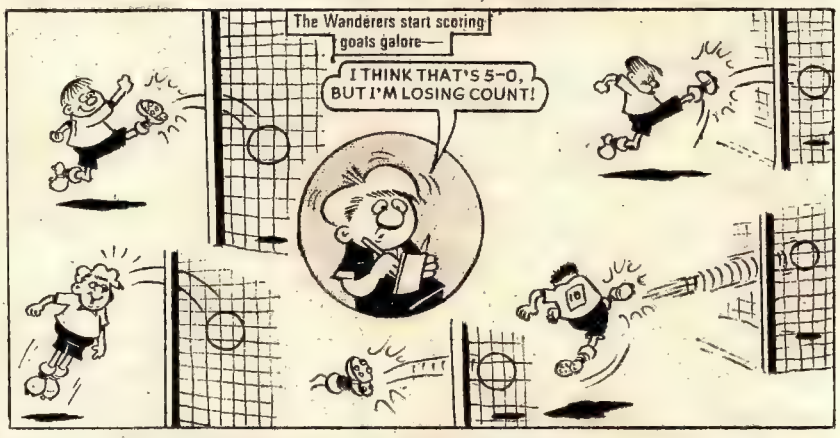
# BALL BOY

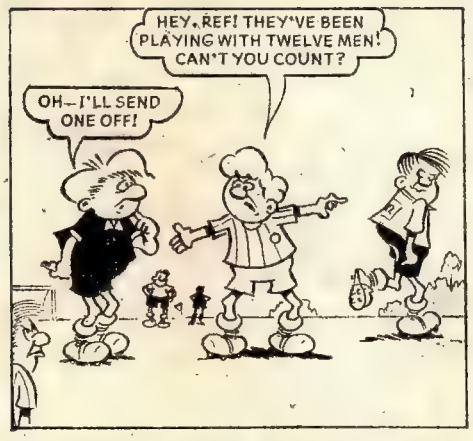

HAVE YOU DONE YOUR SUMS HOMEWORK YET, SON?

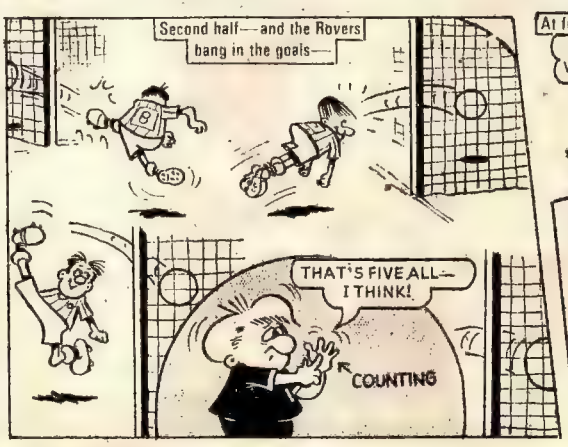
DON'T NEED TO BE GOOD AT SUMS, DAD— I'M GOING TO BE A FOOTBALLER OR A REFEREE WHEN I'M BIG!

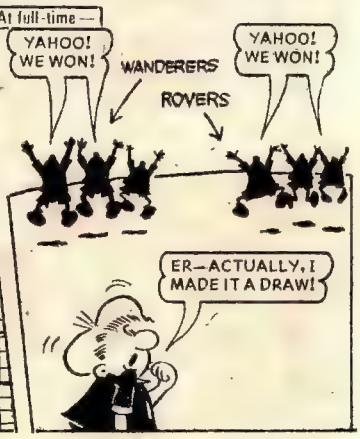
LIKE THE WHISTLER'S OUTFIT, FANS? I'M REFEREEING A GAME TODAY.
PLAYING FIELDS


Soon, the Tuff St. Wanderers kick off against the Black St. Rovers—
PHEEP!


The Wanderers start scoring goals galore—
I THINK THAT'S 5-0, BUT I'M LOSING COUNT!


HEY, REF! THEY'VE BEEN PLAYING WITH TWELVE MEN! CAN'T YOU COUNT?
OH—I'LL SEND ONE OFF!


Second half—and the Rovers bang in the goals—
THAT'S FIVE ALL— I THINK!
COUNTING

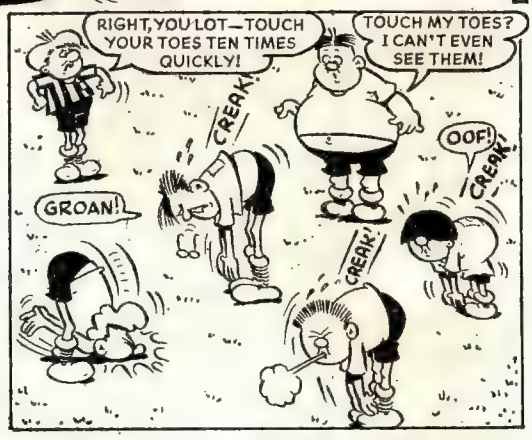

At full-time—
YAHOO! WE WON!
WANDERERS
ROVERS
YAHOO! WE WON!
ER—ACTUALLY, I MADE IT A DRAW!

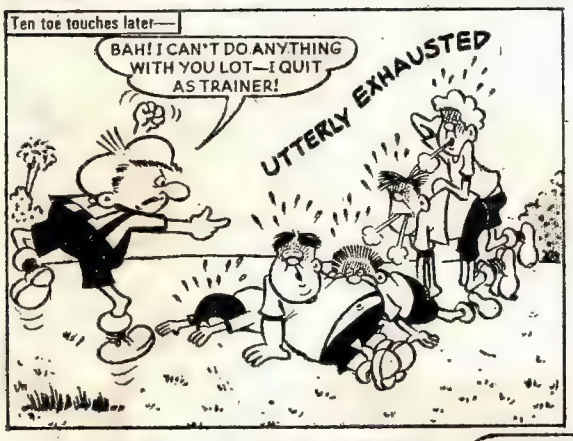
And—
A DRAW? PESKY REF— CAN'T EVEN COUNT! YOU WON'T BE OUR REFEREE AGAIN!
8NO. 10.4.76

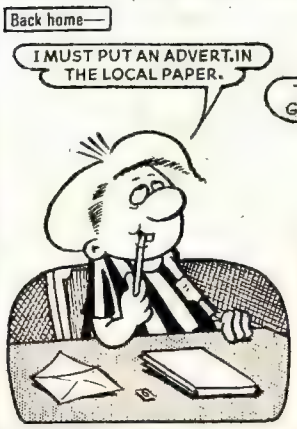
Back home—
WHERE'S MY SCHOOL BAG?
WHAT'S HE UP TO?

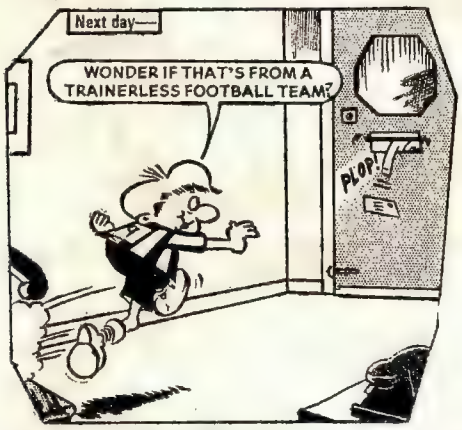
MUST LEARN TO BE A BETTER COUNTER!
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON, READERS?
SIMPLE SUMS

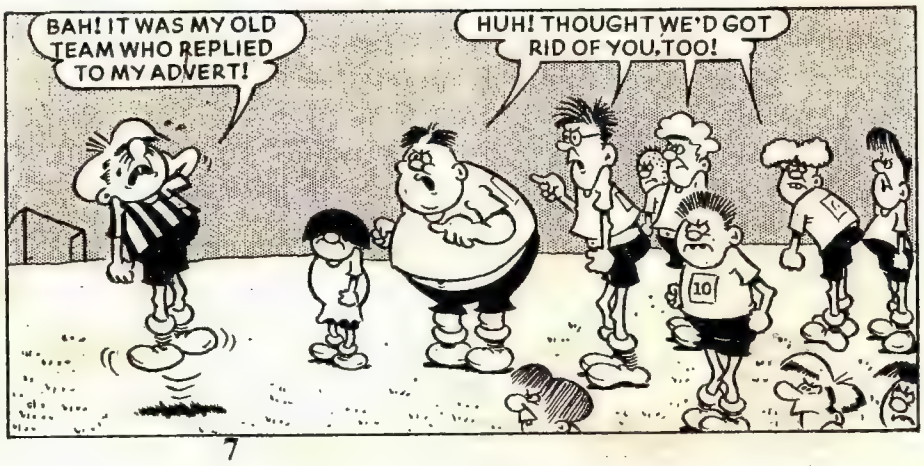
# BALL BOY








BNO. 17.4.76

# BALL BOY

In a schools match

MUST STOP HIM BEFORE HE SHOOTS!

OOPS! DIDN'T MEAN TO FOUL HIM!

PHEEP!

THUD!

SLIP

NAME?

BAH! I'M BEING BOOKED!

EXAGGERATED LIMP

TEAM SHEET

SORRY, B.B. YOU'RE NOT IN NEXT WEEK'S TEAM. THAT BOOKING MEANS YOU MISS ONE GAME.

SUFFERING LINAMENT!

Later—

NEVER MIND—I'LL GET SOME FOOTBALL BOOKS OUT OF THE LIBRARY INSTEAD.

HOI! YOU CAN'T LEAVE THAT THERE HERE!

DO NOT LEAN BICYCLES AGAINST THIS WALL BY ORDER

EH?

NAME? ADDRESS?

GRR! BOOKED AGAIN!

THE SOCCER BOOKS ARE ON THE TOP SHELF.

SPORT

FOOTBALL

CRICKET

TIDDLYWINKS

MARBLES

LOTS OF MUSH

HERE WE ARE!

WAAH!

FOOTBALL

BUMP!

WHIZZ!

COO! SMASHING BOOK, THIS!

OH—OH—OH, NO!

FOOTBALL

CRICKET

TIDDLYWINKS

MARBLES

FALL-L

TOPPLE!

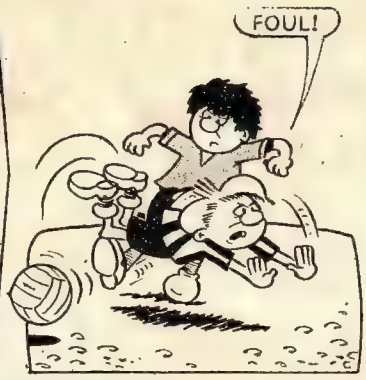
CRASH

I'VE REALLY BEEN BOOKED NOW!

BNO. 24.4.76

# BALL BOY

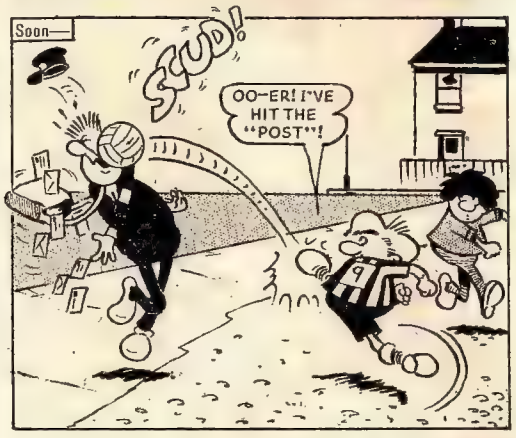
MUST WIN THIS TACKLE!

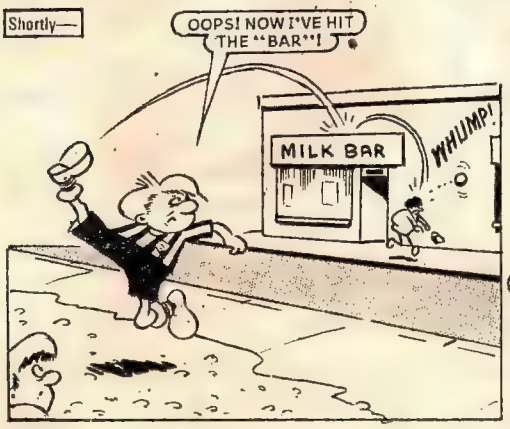

FOUL!

IT'S A FREE KICK!
GOAL

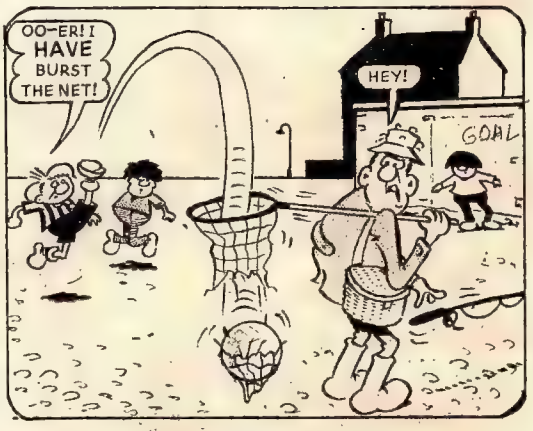
CRASH!
HOI!
BLOOTER!

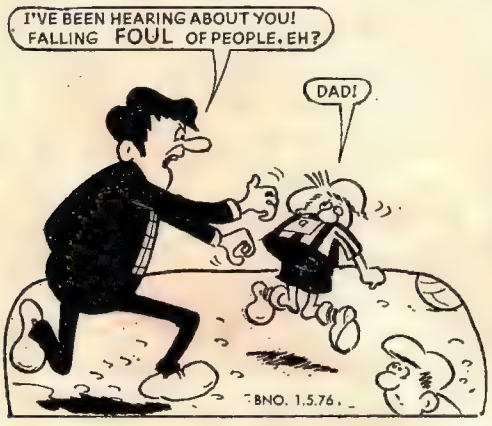
ER-SORRY, MISTER! I WAS TAKING A FREE KICK!
FREE KICK? THAT KICK WILL COST YOUR DAD £5 WHEN I SEE HIM!


Soon—
SCUD!
OO-ER! I'VE HIT THE "POST"!

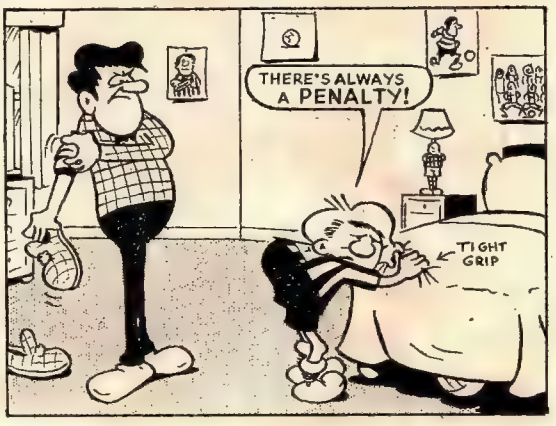

Shortly—
OOPS! NOW I'VE HIT THE "BAR"!
MILK BAR
WHUMP!

Soon—
I'LL BURST THE NET THIS TIME!


OO-ER! I HAVE BURST THE NET!
HEY!
GOAL

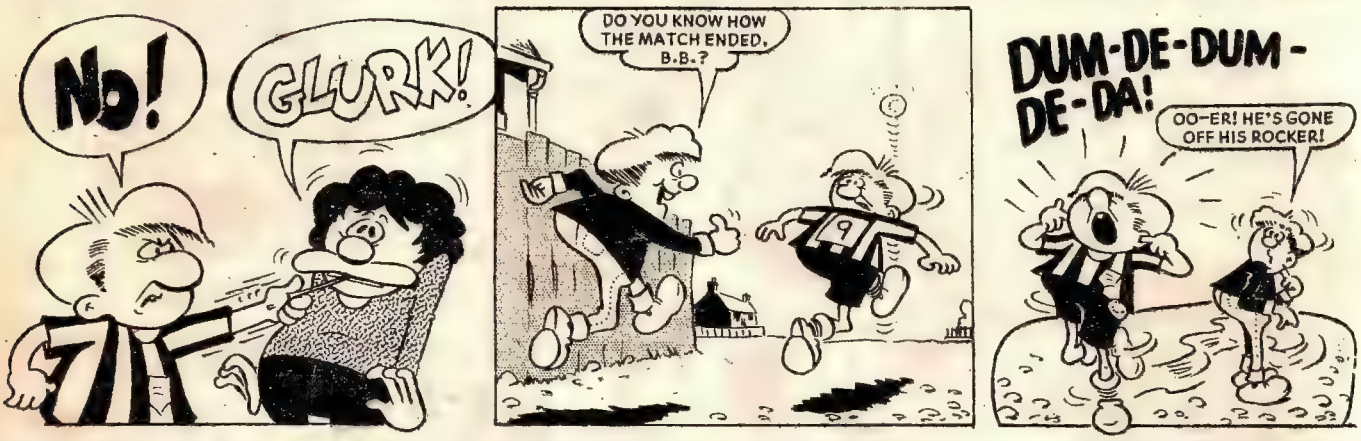

I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT YOU! FALLING FOUL OF PEOPLE, EH?
DAD!
BNO. 1.5.76.

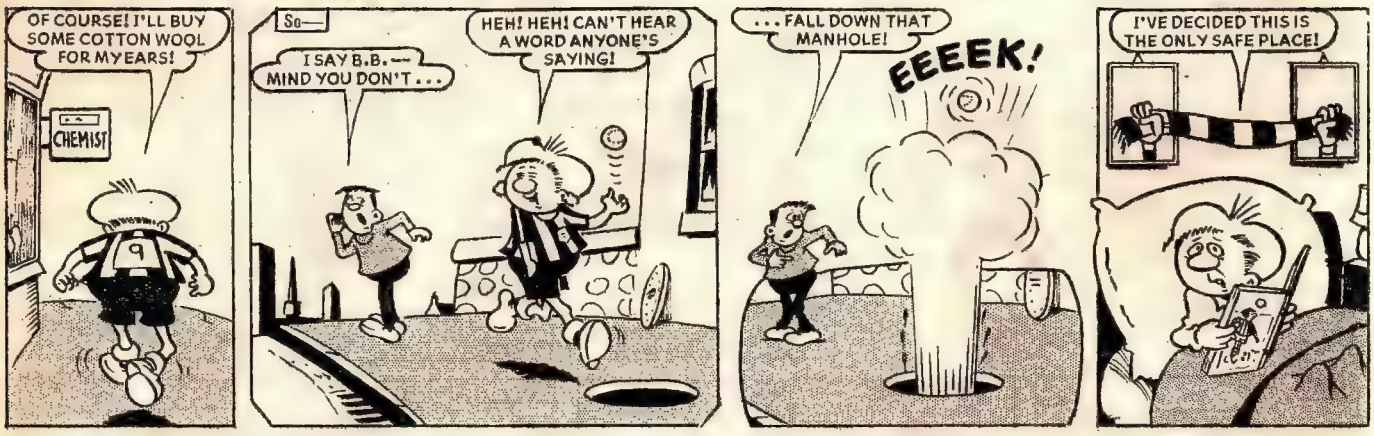
TIME UP! HOME!


THERE'S ALWAYS A PENALTY!
TIGHT GRIP

# BALL BOY

THERE'S A RECORDING OF THE BIG MATCH ON TV TONIGHT—GREAT!
I'LL MAKE SURE I DON'T FIND OUT THE SCORE, THEN IT'LL BE MORE EXCITING TO WATCH.
Later—
LARGE LOLLIES 5P
HEY, B.B., HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST SCORE?


No!
GLURK!
DO YOU KNOW HOW THE MATCH ENDED, B.B.?
DUM-DE-DUM-DE-DA!
OO-ER! HE'S GONE OFF HIS ROCKER!

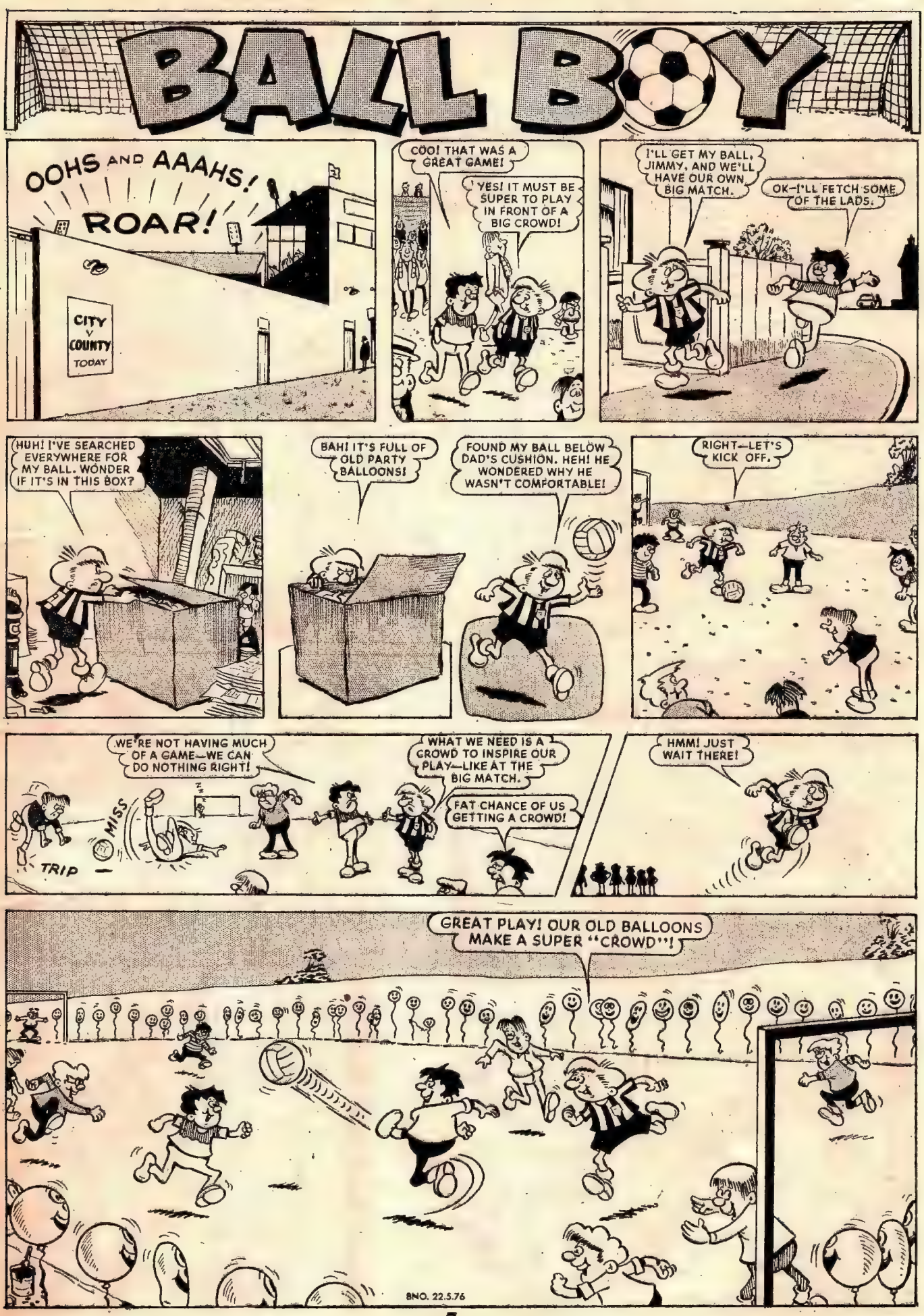

OF COURSE! I'LL BUY SOME COTTON WOOL FOR MY EARS!
CHEMIST
So—
I SAY B.B.— MIND YOU DON'T...
HEH! HEH! CAN'T HEAR A WORD ANYONE'S SAYING!
...FALL DOWN THAT MANHOLE!
EEEEK!
I'VE DECIDED THIS IS THE ONLY SAFE PLACE!

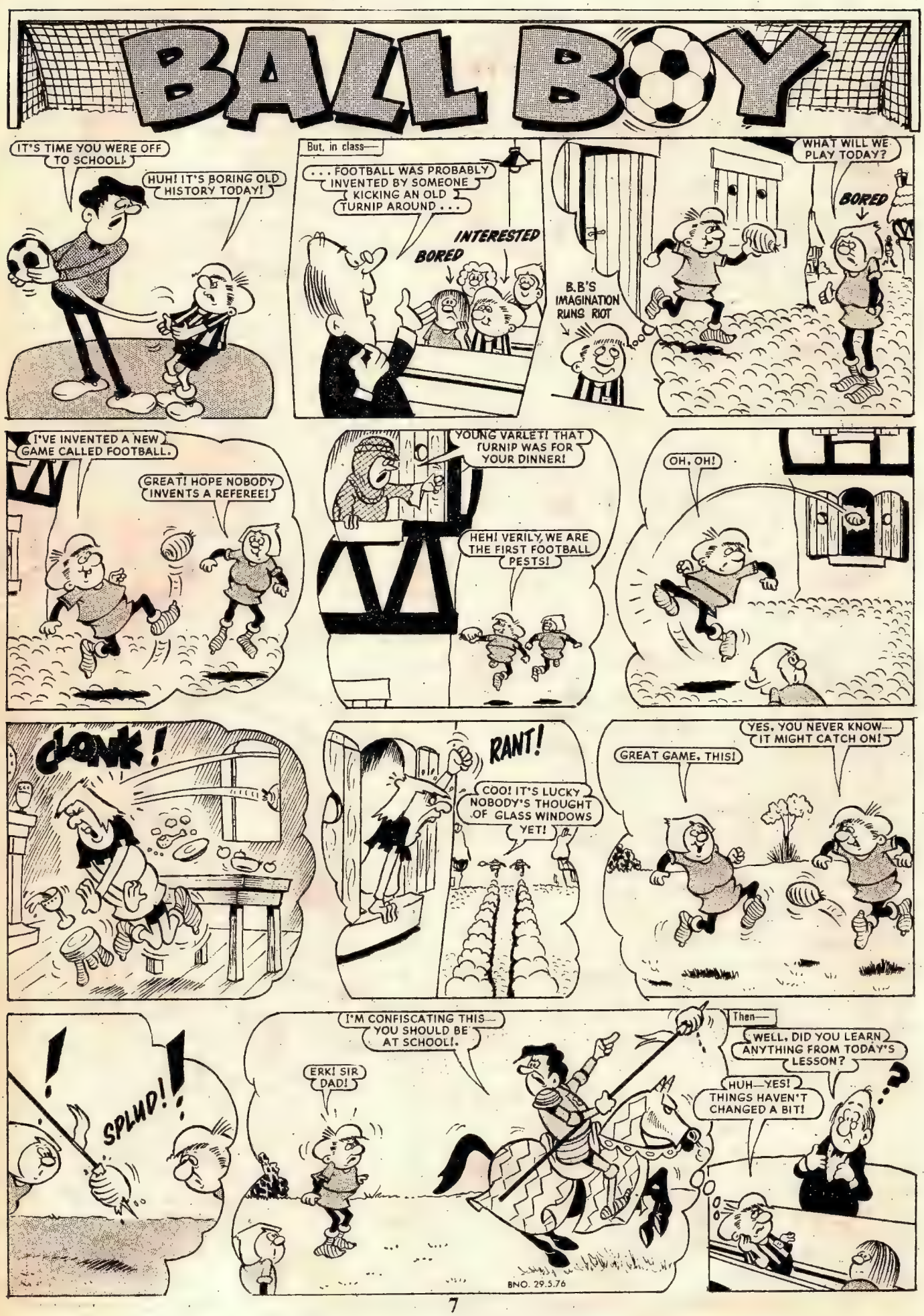
That evening—
HURRAY! TIME FOR THE MATCH, AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHO WON!
So—
GO ON! IT MUST BE A GOAL! SHOOT!
STAMP! THUD!
THUD! CLATTER! BUMP!
AFTER ALL THAT—THE TV'S GONE OFF INJURED!
PEACE
BNO. 8.5.76

# BALL BOY

NOW FOR A NICE QUIET READ.
THE CENTRE COLLECTS THE BALL, WHIRLS ROUND AND LEAVES THE DEFENDER STANDING AND HEADS FOR THE GOAL . . .
. . . AND SHOOTS . . .
OOYAH! MY SHIN!
OH, SORRY, DAD!
KICK
THE DEFENDER RUSHES BACK IN A DESPERATE EFFORT TO SAVE A CERTAIN GOAL!
Later—
MISSED! OOPS, SORRY, DAD!
I'M GOING INDOORS!
Later—
MUM'S WOOL—I'LL SCORE A GOAL WITH IT!
AAGH! MY KNEE!
OOPS! DIDN'T SEE YOU, DAD!
Later—
BET I CAN KICK THIS PAPER BALL THROUGH THAT OPEN WINDOW!
IT'LL PAY ME TO KEEP MY LEGS UP OUT OF THE WAY!
HERE GOES—OO-ER!
WAAH!
JAR!
That night—
WHAT A DAY I'VE HAD WITH THAT FOOTBALLING PEST! I'M GLAD IT'S OVER!
DAD—I'M SLEEPING IN B.B.'S ROOM—YOU KNOW IT'S JUST BEEN DECORATED AND HE HATES THE SMELL OF FRESH PAINT, SO . . .
OK. YAWN! HE CAN SLEEP HERE. YAWN!
Shortly—
OW! EEK! HE EVEN KICKS IN HIS SLEEP!
BNO. 15.5.76

# BALL BOY


OOHS AND AAAHS!
ROAR!
CITY v COUNTY TODAY
COO! THAT WAS A GREAT GAME!
YES! IT MUST BE SUPER TO PLAY IN FRONT OF A BIG CROWD!
I'LL GET MY BALL, JIMMY, AND WE'LL HAVE OUR OWN BIG MATCH.
OK—I'LL FETCH SOME OF THE LADS.
(HUH! I'VE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE FOR MY BALL. WONDER IF IT'S IN THIS BOX?
BAH! IT'S FULL OF OLD PARTY BALLOONS!
FOUND MY BALL BELOW DAD'S CUSHION. HEH! HE WONDERED WHY HE WASN'T COMFORTABLE!
RIGHT—LET'S KICK OFF.
WE'RE NOT HAVING MUCH OF A GAME—WE CAN DO NOTHING RIGHT!
TRIP
MISS
WHAT WE NEED IS A CROWD TO INSPIRE OUR PLAY—LIKE AT THE BIG MATCH.
FAT CHANCE OF US GETTING A CROWD!
HMM! JUST WAIT THERE!
GREAT PLAY! OUR OLD BALLOONS MAKE A SUPER "CROWD"!
BNO. 22.5.76


BALL BOY
IT'S TIME YOU WERE OFF TO SCHOOL!
HUH! IT'S BORING OLD HISTORY TODAY!
But, in class—
. . . FOOTBALL WAS PROBABLY INVENTED BY SOMEONE KICKING AN OLD TURNIP AROUND . . .
INTERESTED
BORED
B.B'S IMAGINATION RUNS RIOT
WHAT WILL WE PLAY TODAY?
BORED
I'VE INVENTED A NEW GAME CALLED FOOTBALL.
GREAT! HOPE NOBODY INVENTS A REFEREE!
YOUNG VARLET! THAT TURNIP WAS FOR YOUR DINNER!
HEH! VERILY, WE ARE THE FIRST FOOTBALL PESTS!
OH, OH!
CLONK!
RANT!
COO! IT'S LUCKY NOBODY'S THOUGHT OF GLASS WINDOWS YET!
GREAT GAME, THIS!
YES, YOU NEVER KNOW— IT MIGHT CATCH ON!
SPLUD!
I'M CONFISCATING THIS— YOU SHOULD BE AT SCHOOL!.
ERK! SIR DAD!
Then—
WELL, DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING FROM TODAY'S LESSON?
HUH—YES! THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!
BNO. 29.5.76

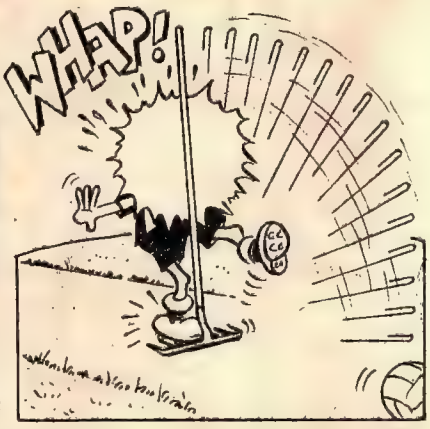
# BALL BOY

COO! MY TEAM PLAY GREEN STREET ROVERS ON SATURDAY, SO . . .
BACK STREET LEAGUE FIXTURE
. . . I'M GOING ON A SPYING MISSION TO GREEN STREET!
CHAMPS
TEAM HUT
ONE TOP SECRET SINGLE TO GREEN STREET! DON'T TELL ANYONE YOU SAW ME!
MUSTN'T BE SPOTTED!
GREEN ST. PARK
AH! THIS MUST BE GREEN STREET ROVERS TRAINING—I'LL TAKE SOME NOTES ON THEM.
GASP! THEIR SMALLEST PLAYER'S TWICE MY SIZE!
EEK! THE CENTRE-HALF LOOKS AS POWERFUL AS A GORILLA—HE SHOULD BE IN A SAFARI PARK, NOT A FOOTBALL PARK!
WONDER IF HE'S GOT A GOOD SHOT?
OOPS! SLICED IT!
WHAP!
PHEW! WHAT A ROCKET—I'D BETTER BUY A GET-WELL CARD FOR OUR 'KEEPER!
BNO. 5.6.76
MUDCASTER UTD. F.C.
YEEK! WE'LL GET HAMMERED 99-0 ON SATURDAY!
B.B.'S BEEN WATCHING MUDCASTER UNITED!
WE CAN TRAIN IN THE STADIUM NOW THAT OUR GROUNDSMAN'S MOWED THE PITCH.
MUDCASTER UTD. COACH
EDITOR'S VOICE
DON'T TELL B.B., BUT THAT'S THE REAL GREEN STREET ROVERS!

# BALL BOY

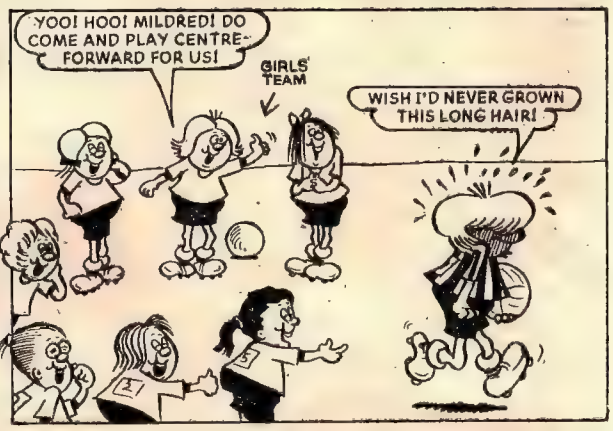
I'VE GROWN MY HAIR LIKE MY HERO, LARRY WIGGE!
SOCCER STARS
LARRY WIGGE

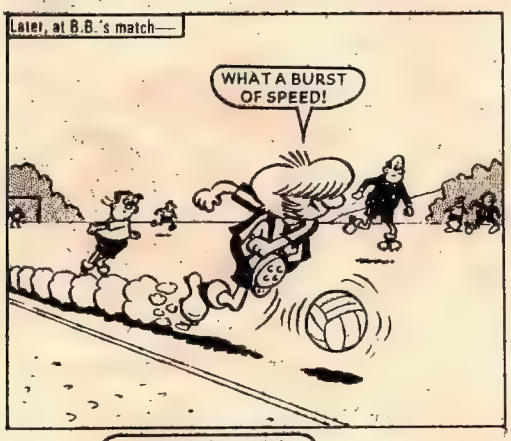
I'LL LOOK LIKE A REAL STAR IN OUR MATCH TODAY.

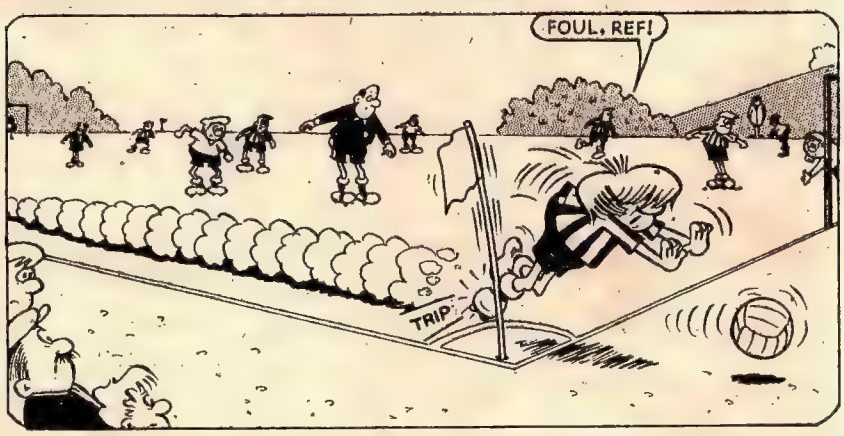

WHAP!

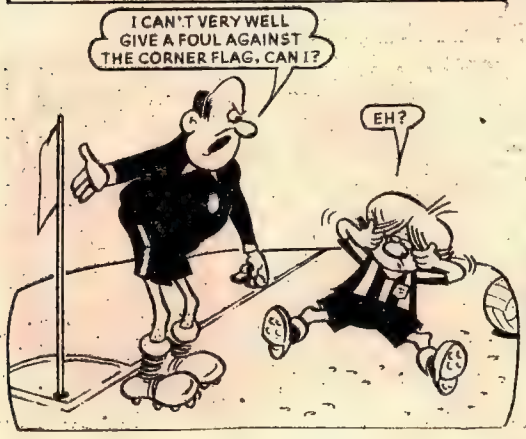
OOYAH! DON'T KNOW ABOUT BEING A STAR, BUT I'M SEEING PLENTY NOW!

HERE COMES B.B.—LET'S HAVE A LAUGH, GIRLS!


YOO! HOO! MILDRED! DO COME AND PLAY CENTRE-FORWARD FOR US!
GIRLS' TEAM
WISH I'D NEVER GROWN THIS LONG HAIR!


Later, at B.B.'s match—
WHAT A BURST OF SPEED!


FOUL, REF!
TRIP!


I CAN'T VERY WELL GIVE A FOUL AGAINST THE CORNER FLAG, CAN I?
EH?

BAH! THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH!

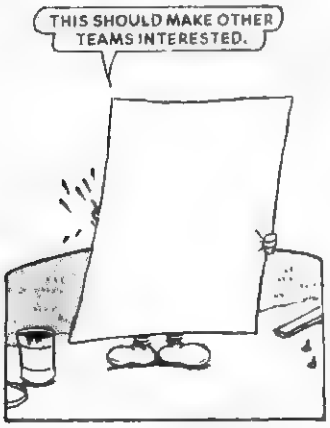
JUST CALL ME "BALD BOY", READERS! HEH! HEH!
HAIRCUT 35p BOYS 50p
SHAVE 25p BOYS 10p
OPEN
BNO. 12.6.76

# BALL BOY

BAH! ANOTHER CRUSHING DEFEAT!
I THOUGHT OUR NINTH GOAL WAS BEST.
RUBBISH! OUR TWENTIETH ONE WAS BETTER!
BALL BOY'S TEAM

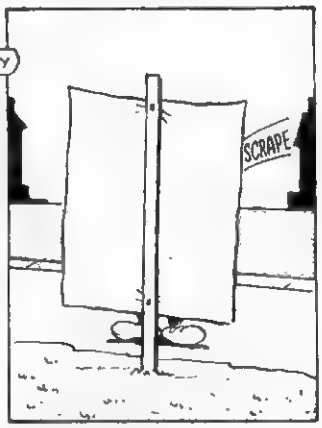
SOCCER STAR TRANSFERRED FOR £200,000

THAT'S IT! I'LL GET A TRANSFER TO A BETTER TEAM!


THIS SHOULD MAKE OTHER TEAMS INTERESTED.

FOOTBALLER FOR TRANSFER ONLY £200,000

Later—
NOBODY'S OFFERED TO BUY ME YET—I MUST BE ASKING A BIT MUCH.


SCRAPE

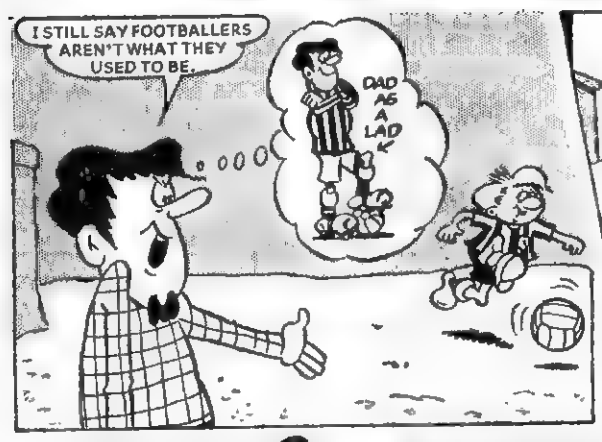
FOOTBALLER FOR TRANSFER ONLY ~~£200,000~~ 2 OLD BEANOS

Later—
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SON?
HUH! I CAN'T GET A TRANSFER, DAD.

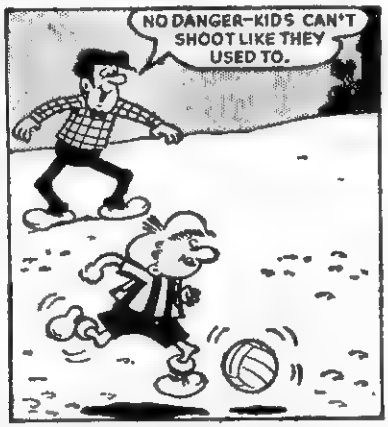
WHAT A SHAME.—FOLLOW ME, LADDIE.
?

Later—
BALL BOY GOT A TRANSFER AFTER ALL, READERS . . .
. . . A TRANSFER ON HIS FOOTBALL STRIP, THAT IS!
BEANO'S No.1 FOOTBALL FAN
BRIGHTEN YOUR T-SHIRT
I'M BROKE!
TRANSFERS PUT ON WHILE YOU WAIT
BNO.26 6 76

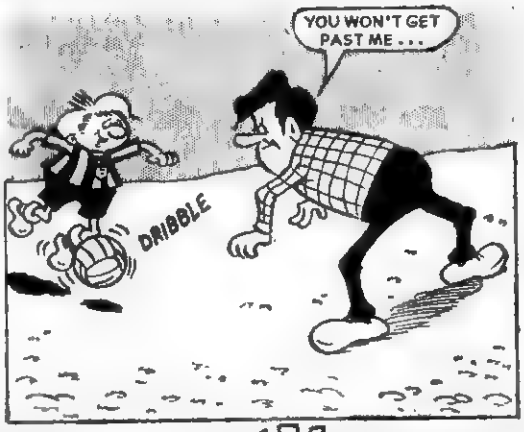
# BALL BOY

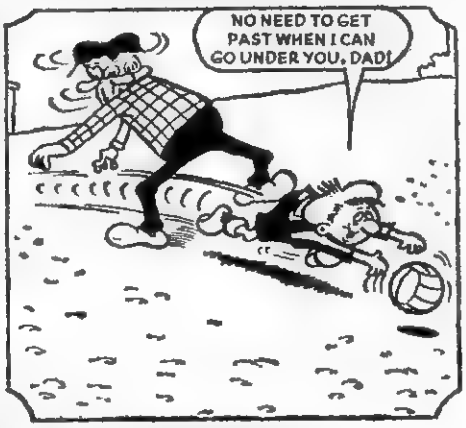

I STILL SAY FOOTBALLERS AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE.
DAD AS A LAD

COME ON AND HAVE A GAME, DAD.
OO—ER—UM . . .


NO DANGER—KIDS CAN'T SHOOT LIKE THEY USED TO.

OO-OO-OOF!
FUMP!
IS THAT SO, DAD?
THUMP!


YOU WON'T GET PAST ME . . .
DRIBBLE

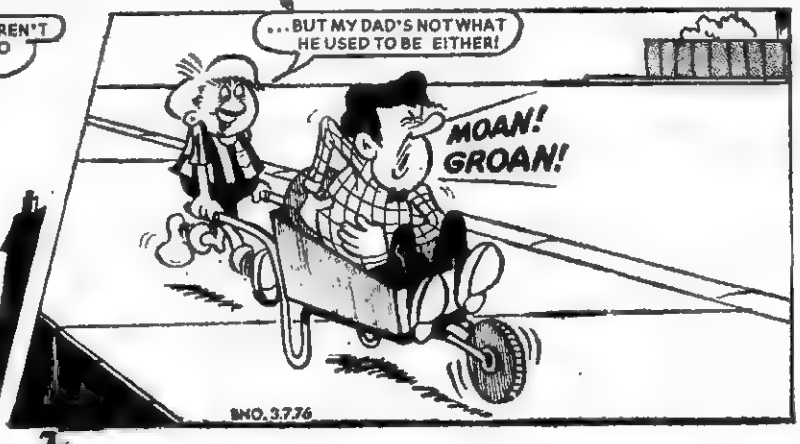

NO NEED TO GET PAST WHEN I CAN GO UNDER YOU, DAD!

EVEN THE BIGGEST CENTRE-HALVES COULDN'T STOP ME!
DRIBBLE

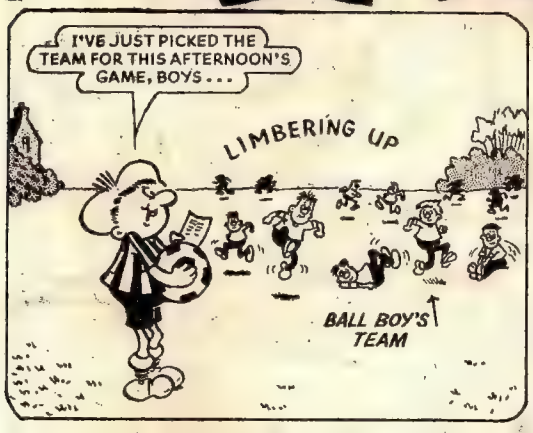
CRASH!
WHAT ABOUT THE LITTLE ONES, DAD?
WHAP!

GROAN! MOAN! I'M SORE ALL OVER—GET ME TRANSPORT HOME! OOO!

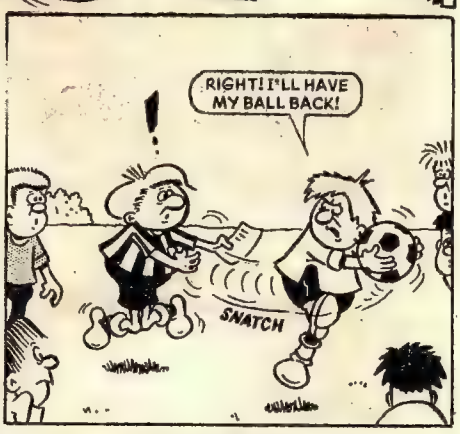
MAYBE FOOTBALLERS AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE, READERS . . .

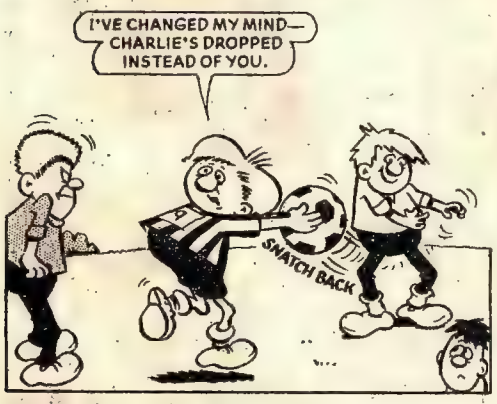

. . . BUT MY DAD'S NOT WHAT HE USED TO BE EITHER!
MOAN! GROAN!
BNO. 3.7.76

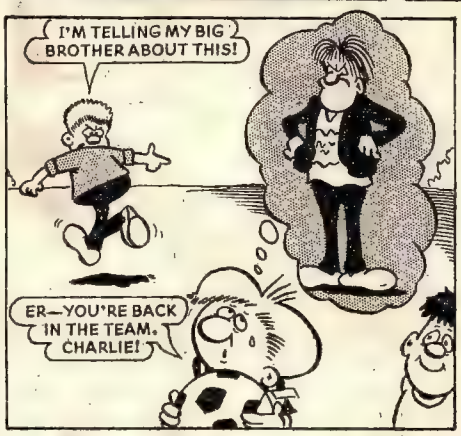
# BALL BOY


I'VE JUST PICKED THE TEAM FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S GAME, BOYS . . .
LIMBERING UP
BALL BOY'S TEAM

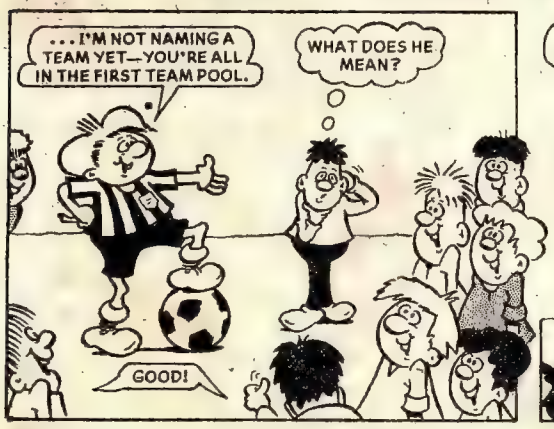
. . . JOHNNY—YOU'RE DROPPED, I'M AFRAID.


RIGHT! I'LL HAVE MY BALL BACK!
!
SNATCH

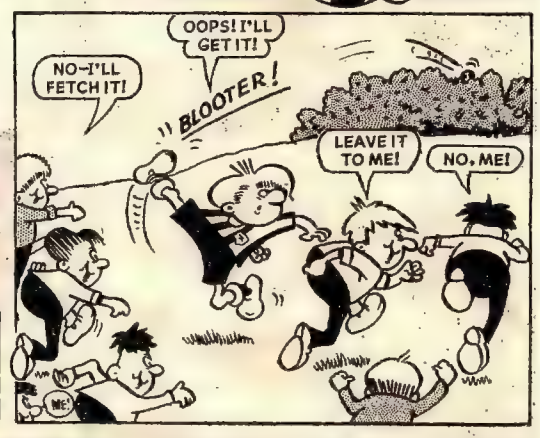

I'VE CHANGED MY MIND—CHARLIE'S DROPPED INSTEAD OF YOU.
SNATCH BACK

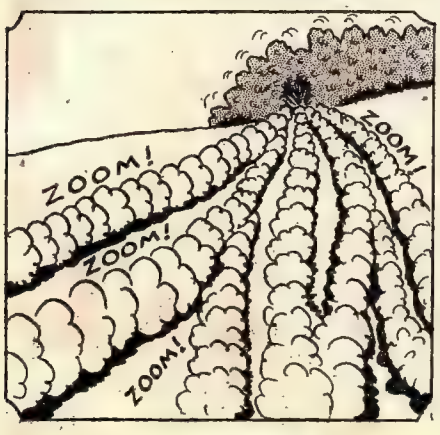

I'M TELLING MY BIG BROTHER ABOUT THIS!
ER—YOU'RE BACK IN THE TEAM, CHARLIE!

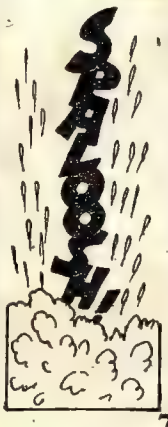
NOW, WHAT WOULD TOMMY DOCHERTY DO?—I KNOW . . .

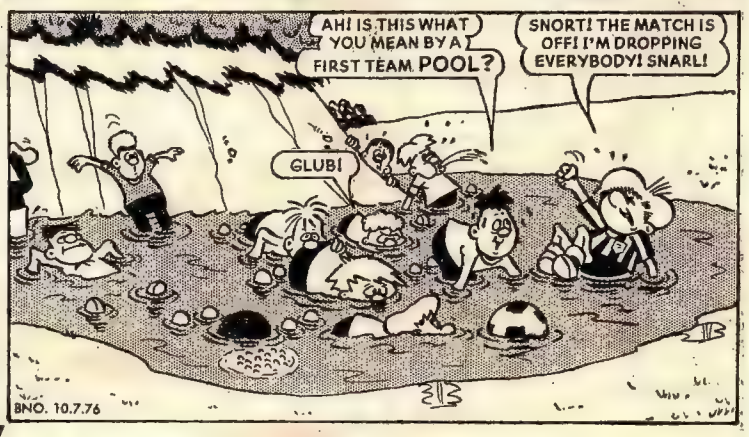

. . . I'M NOT NAMING A TEAM YET—YOU'RE ALL IN THE FIRST TEAM POOL.
WHAT DOES HE MEAN?
GOOD!

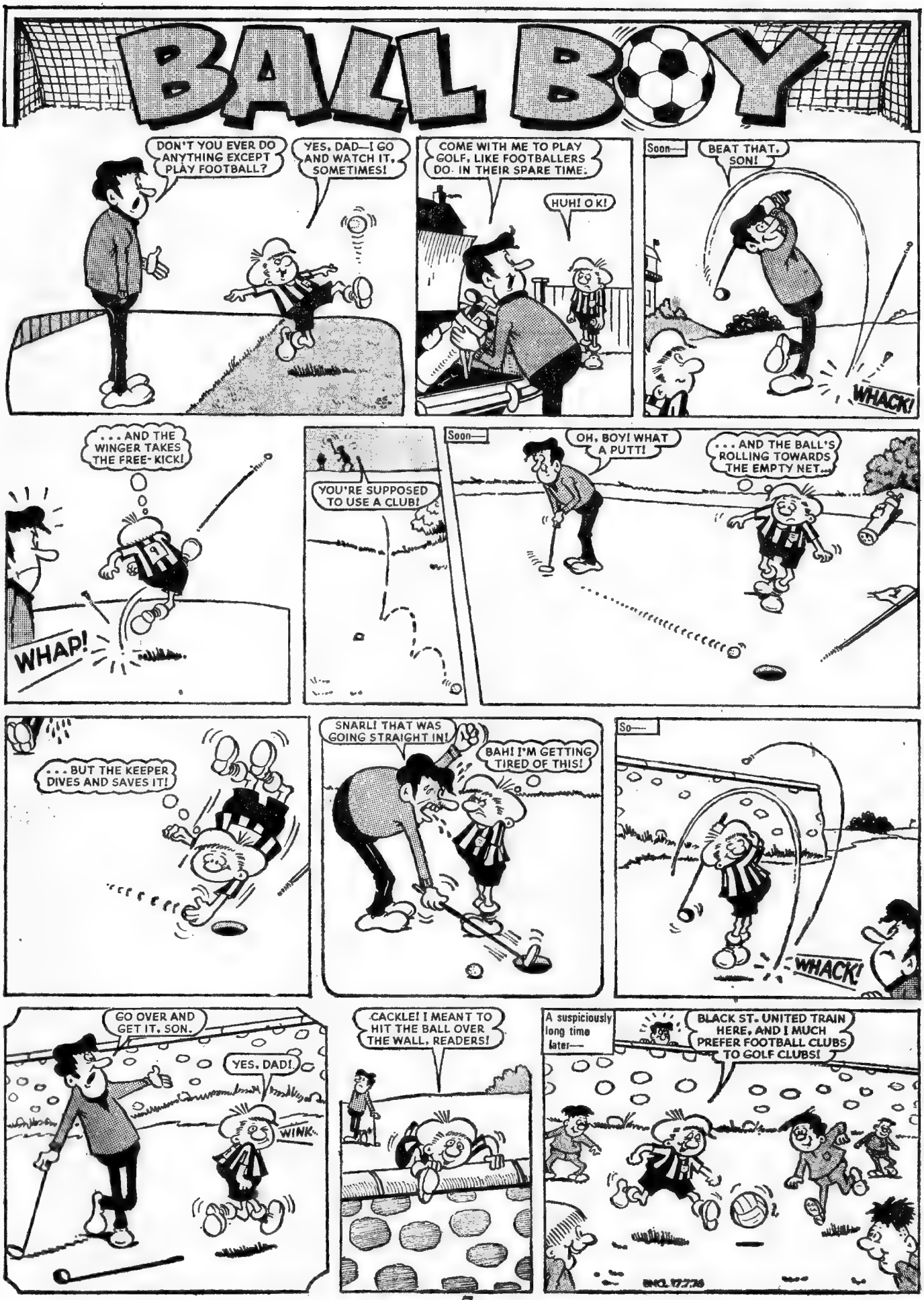
RIGHT! LET'S HAVE A WARM-UP BEFORE OUR OPPONENTS ARRIVE.


NO—I'LL FETCH IT!
OOPS! I'LL GET IT!
BLOOTER!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
NO, ME!
ME!

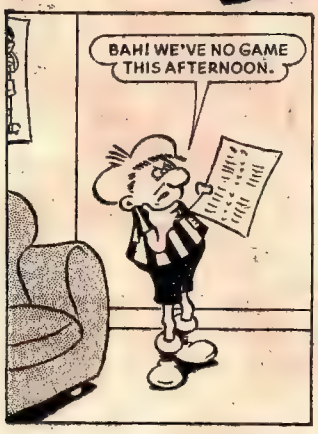

ZOOM!
ZOOM!
ZOOM!
ZOOM!


SPLOOSH!


AH! IS THIS WHAT YOU MEAN BY A FIRST TEAM POOL?
SNORT! THE MATCH IS OFF! I'M DROPPING EVERYBODY! SNARL!
GLUB!
BNO. 10.7.76

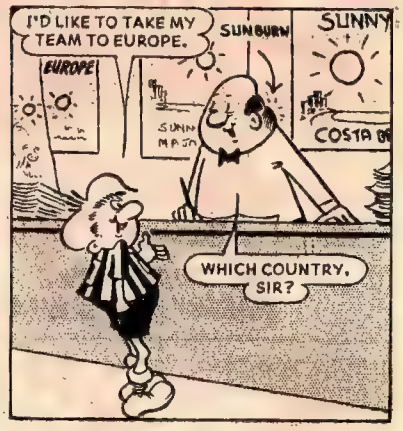

BALL BOY
DON'T YOU EVER DO ANYTHING EXCEPT PLAY FOOTBALL?
YES, DAD—I GO AND WATCH IT, SOMETIMES!
COME WITH ME TO PLAY GOLF, LIKE FOOTBALLERS DO IN THEIR SPARE TIME.
HUH! O K!
Soon—
BEAT THAT, SON!
WHACK!
. . . AND THE WINGER TAKES THE FREE-KICK!
WHAP!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO USE A CLUB!
Soon—
OH, BOY! WHAT A PUTT!
. . . AND THE BALL'S ROLLING TOWARDS THE EMPTY NET...
. . . BUT THE KEEPER DIVES AND SAVES IT!
SNARL! THAT WAS GOING STRAIGHT IN!
BAH! I'M GETTING TIRED OF THIS!
So—
WHACK!
GO OVER AND GET IT, SON.
YES, DAD!
WINK.
CACKLE! I MEANT TO HIT THE BALL OVER THE WALL, READERS!
A suspiciously long time later—
BLACK ST. UNITED TRAIN HERE, AND I MUCH PREFER FOOTBALL CLUBS TO GOLF CLUBS!

# BALL BOY

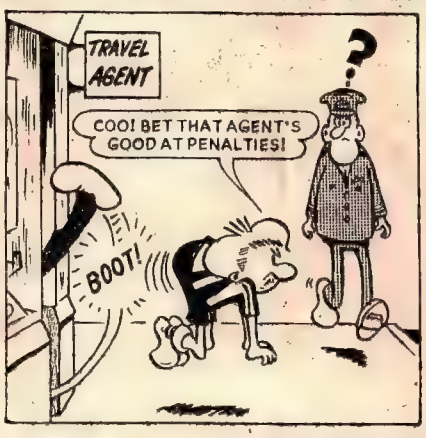

BAH! WE'VE NO GAME THIS AFTERNOON.

HEY! WONDER IF I CAN ARRANGE A GAME IN EUROPE?
EUROPE

I'M OFF TO EUROPE TO FIX UP A GAME, DAD!
EUROPE? HEH! HEH! THAT'S A LAUGH!


I'D LIKE TO TAKE MY TEAM TO EUROPE.
EUROPE
SUNBURN
SUNNY
COSTA
WHICH COUNTRY, SIR?

ANYWHERE—AS LONG AS THE FARE'S LESS THAN 20p.


TRAVEL AGENT
COO! BET THAT AGENT'S GOOD AT PENALTIES!
BOOT!

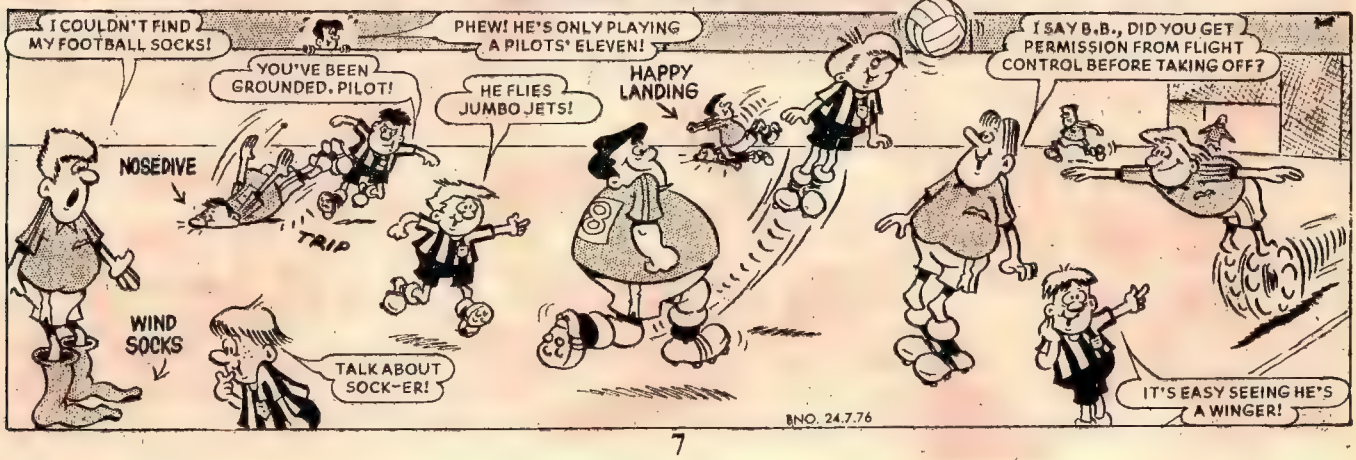
I SAY, WHAT'S WRONG, OLD CHAP?
AIRLINE PILOT
I'M TRYING TO ARRANGE A GAME FOR THIS AFTERNOON.

Later—
WELL, I'M OFF TO THE AIRPORT, DAD.
THAT'S FINE, SON.

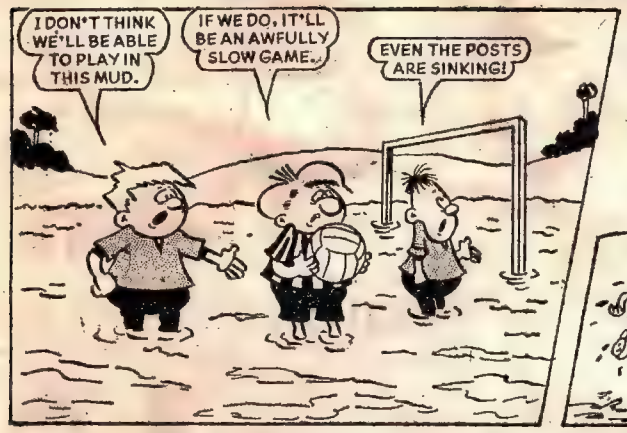
AIRPORT?

THAT'S MY SON AND HIS TEAM—DON'T SAY HE IS OFF TO EUROPE!
AIRPORT

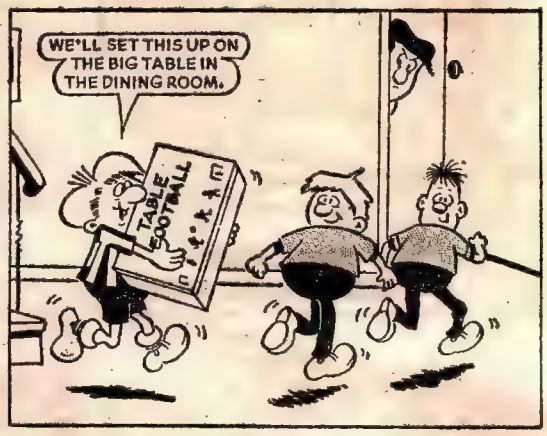
WAIT A MINUTE—WHAT'S THIS?

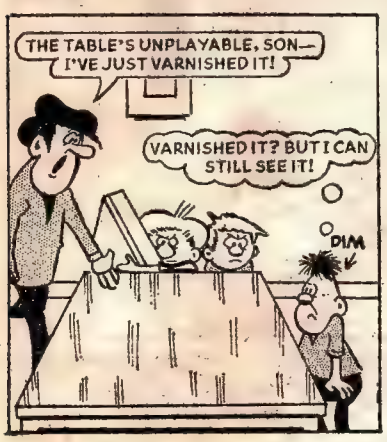

I COULDN'T FIND MY FOOTBALL SOCKS!
PHEW! HE'S ONLY PLAYING A PILOTS' ELEVEN!
YOU'VE BEEN GROUNDED, PILOT!
HE FLIES JUMBO JETS!
HAPPY LANDING
I SAY B.B., DID YOU GET PERMISSION FROM FLIGHT CONTROL BEFORE TAKING OFF?
NOSEDIVE
TRIP
WIND SOCKS
TALK ABOUT SOCK-ER!
IT'S EASY SEEING HE'S A WINGER!
BNO. 24.7.76

# BALL BOY

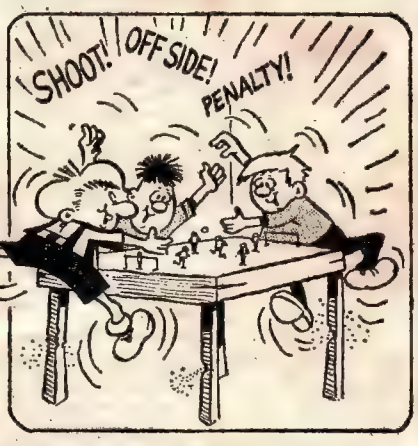

I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY IN THIS MUD.
IF WE DO, IT'LL BE AN AWFULLY SLOW GAME...
EVEN THE POSTS ARE SINKING!

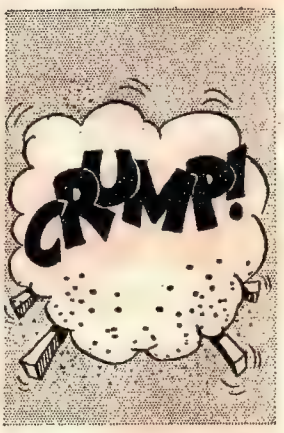
LET'S GO OVER TO MY HOUSE FOR A GAME OF TABLE FOOTBALL, LADS.


WE'LL SET THIS UP ON THE BIG TABLE IN THE DINING ROOM.
TABLE FOOTBALL


THE TABLE'S UNPLAYABLE, SON— I'VE JUST VARNISHED IT!
VARNISHED IT? BUT I CAN STILL SEE IT!
DIM

WAIT! THERE'S AN OLD TABLE UP IN THE ATTIC. LET'S FETCH IT DOWN.

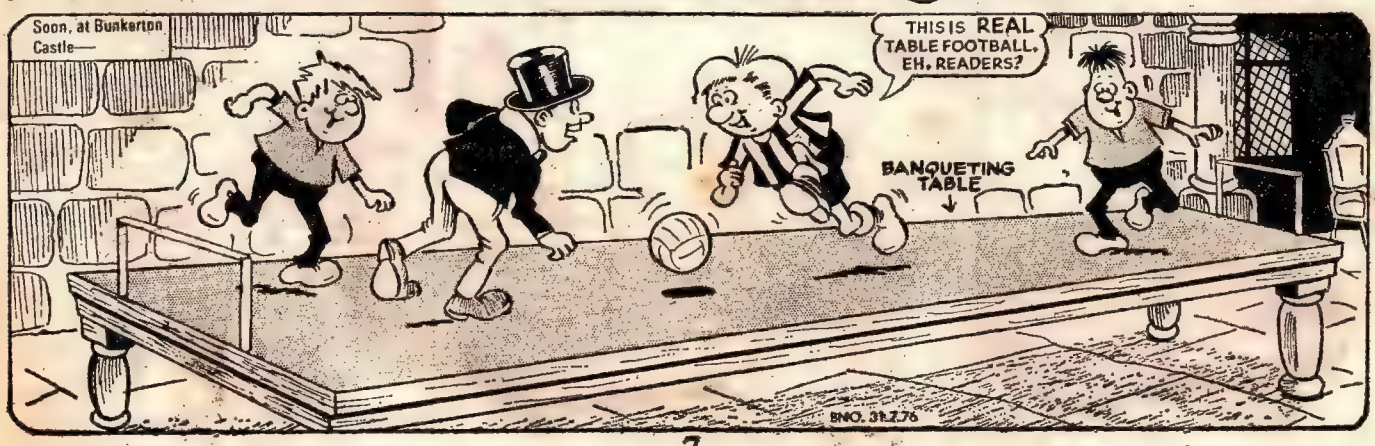

SHOOT!
OFF SIDE!
PENALTY!


CRUMP!

THE PESKY TABLE HAD WOODWORM! BAH!
THOSE PLASTIC FOOTBALLERS DON'T TASTE TOO GOOD! YUCK!
CHOMP!
CHOMP!

WELL, NO FOOTBALL FOR US TODAY.
DON'T BE TOO SURE!

HELLO, LORD SNOOTY! WOULD YOU DO ME A FAVOUR?..

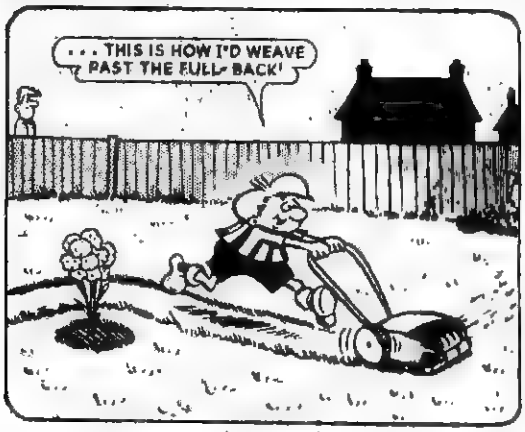

Soon, at Bunkerton Castle—
THIS IS REAL TABLE FOOTBALL, EH, READERS?
BANQUETING TABLE
BNO. 31.7.76

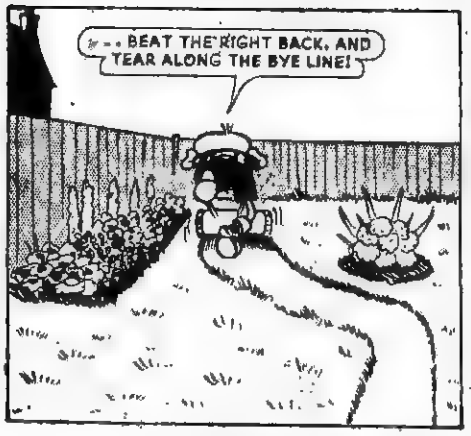
# BALL BOY

I'M A SCOUT FOR THE TOP LOCAL FOOTBALL CLUB!
COO! D'YOU WANT TO SEE ME IN ACTION? I'LL GET MY BALL!

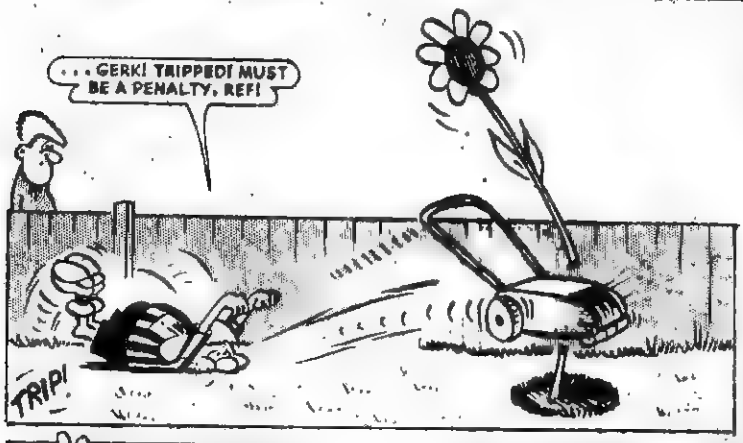
FIRST YOU'LL MOW THE LAWN!
AW, DAD!

. . . I CAN STILL SHOW MY SKILLS, THOUGH!


. . . THIS IS HOW I'D WEAVE PAST THE FULL-BACK!

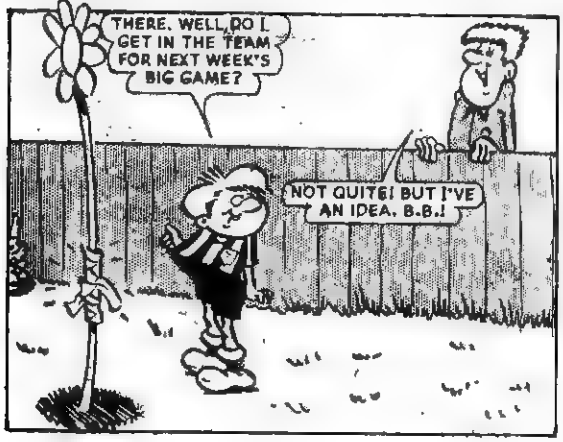

. . . BEAT THE RIGHT BACK, AND TEAR ALONG THE BYE LINE!

. . . ONLY THE GOALKEEPER TO BEAT NOW!


. . . GERK! TRIPPED! MUST BE A PENALTY, REF!
TRIP!

CRUMBS! THE TRAINER'S NEEDED BEFORE DAD SEES THIS!

SOON HAVE THE "GOALKEEPER" STANDING ON HIS ROOTS AGAIN


THERE, WELL, DO I GET IN THE TEAM FOR NEXT WEEK'S BIG GAME?
NOT QUITE! BUT I'VE AN IDEA, B.B.!

CHUCKLE! I'M THE TEAM'S FIRST-AID MAN AND I GET TO WATCH ALL THEIR MATCHES FOR FREE! YIPPEE!
BNO. 7.8.76

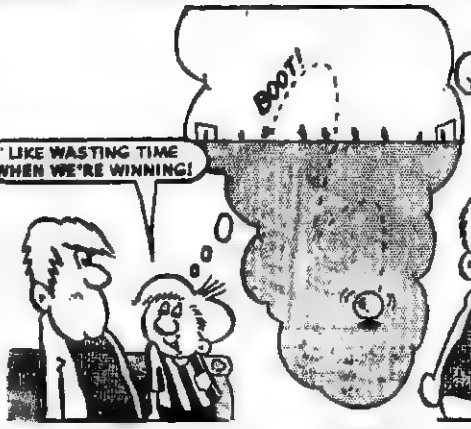
# BALL BOY

I'M OFF TO PLAY IN THIS AFTERNOON'S GAME, FANS!
BUS

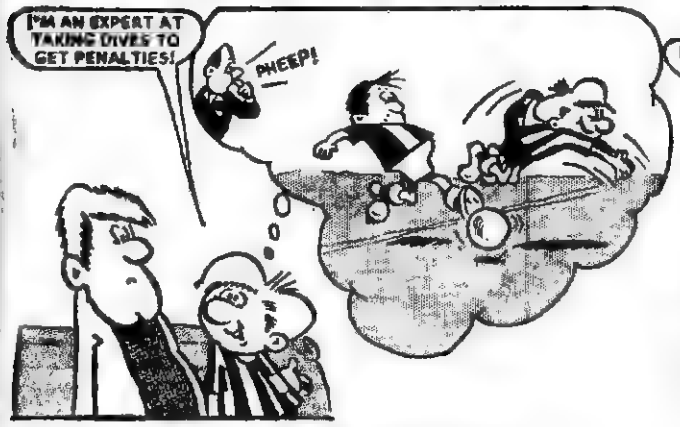
THIS IS THE WAY I'LL DRIBBLE PAST THE OPPOSITION!
SWERVE

PLAYING FOOTBALL TODAY, SON?
YES, AGAINST SLAGG STREET UNITED!

AN OLD HAND LIKE MYSELF KNOWS ALL THE TRICKS OF FOOTBALL. HEH! HEH!


I LIKE WASTING TIME WHEN WE'RE WINNING!
BOOT!

OR PINCHING A FEW YARDS AT THROW-INS!
TIP-TOE


I'M AN EXPERT AT TAKING DIVES TO GET PENALTIES!
PHEEP!

HAVE TO GO NOW— THIS IS MY STOP!
MINE TOO.

BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR SOME OF MY TRICKS!

WAAH!

I—I'VE TOLD THE REF. ALL MY SECRETS!
HMM. THE BOY ON THE BUS!

I THINK HE'S LEARNED HIS LESSON, EH, READERS?
MUST BE ON MY BEST BEHAVIOUR!
BACK
POLITELY
BNO. 14876

# BALL BOY

MUM'S MAKING A FLASK OF TEA FOR ME TO TAKE TO TODAY'S GAME.

I WON'T FORGET WHAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK...
OTHER TEAMS GET TEA OR ORANGES AT HALF-TIME— WE'VE ONLY GOT A HALF-CHEWED BIT OF GUM!

THAT'S YOUR FLASK FILLED, SON.
...SO THAT'S WHY I'M HAVING THE TEA MADE.

I'LL PUT THE FLASK OUT OF THE WAY FOR A MOMENT AND PRACTICE A FEW TACTICS FOR THE GAME.

I'LL SWERVE PAST THE CENTRE-BACK, THEN SHOOT...
PEA

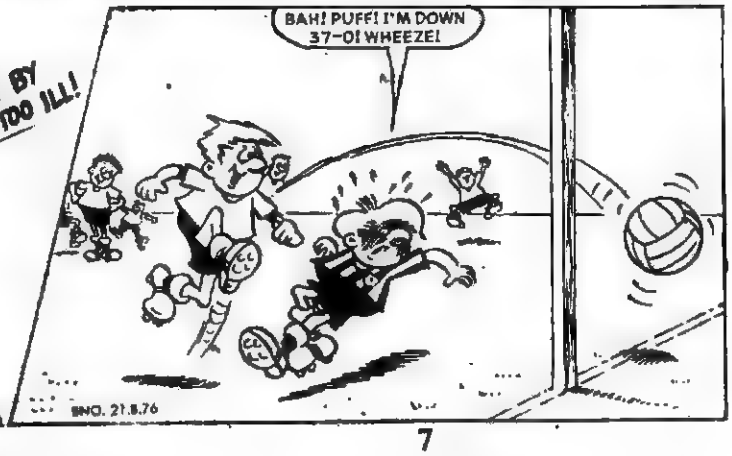
...GOAL!
BUMP!
SPILL

TIME I WAS OFF.

Half-time
BAH! NO TEA LEFT FOR ME!

GROO! THAT TEA'S HORRIBLE!
YUGH! I'M ILL!
UGH! TASTES OF SALT!
TIME TO KICK-OFF, BOYS.
UGH!
GROOCH!

MOAN! OOH!
GROAN! EEYUK!
UGH! OOH, MY TUM!
YOU'LL HAVE TO PLAY BY YOURSELF, B.B.-WE'RE TOO ILL!
YUGH!


BAH! PUFF! I'M DOWN 37-0! WHEEZE!
BNO. 21.8.76

A RECORD DEFEAT! HALF-TIME REFRESHMENTS— BAH!

# BALL BOY

I'M A BIT LATE TODAY, FANS—MY TEAM WILL BE HERE!

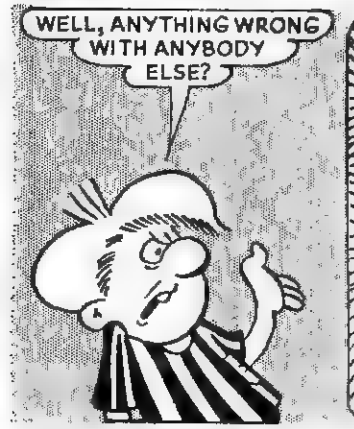
WELL, BOYS, EVERYBODY RARING TO START?

DON'T THINK I'M UP TO IT, B.B.!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, KEEPER?

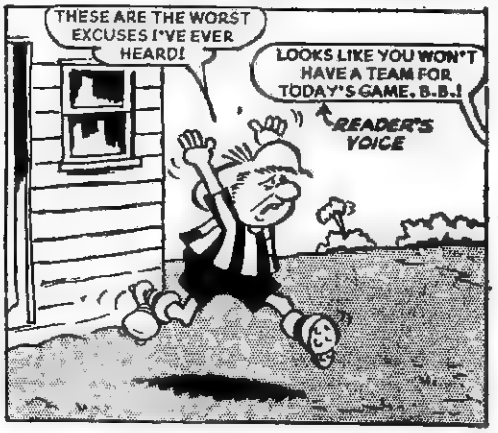
I STRAINED MY BACK PICKING ALL THOSE GOALS OUT OF THE NET LAST WEEK!

SNIFF! DON'T THINK I'LL MAKE IT EITHER, B.B.!
SIGH! AND WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, WINGER?

SHIVER!
COLD WIND
SNIFF! I CAUGHT A COLD WAITING FOR THE BALL TO COME TO ME IN OUR LAST GAME!
SNORT! I MUST HAVE THE SOFTEST TEAM IN THE LEAGUE!

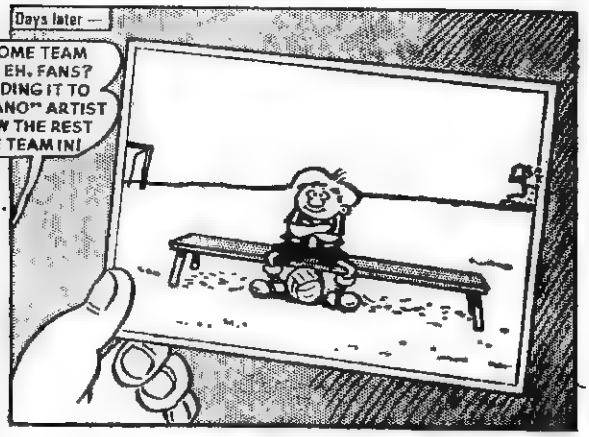

WELL, ANYTHING WRONG WITH ANYBODY ELSE?

YES! I'VE JUST POLISHED MY BOOTS AND I DON'T WANT TO GET MUD ON THEM!
MY MUM SAYS IT'S TOO COLD TO GO OUT TODAY!
OH, NO!
I DON'T WANT THE WIND DISTURBING MY HAIR!
I FORGOT TO BRING MY SOCKS!


THESE ARE THE WORST EXCUSES I'VE EVER HEARD!
LOOKS LIKE YOU WON'T HAVE A TEAM FOR TODAY'S GAME, B.B.!
READER'S VOICE

GAME? IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD IF WE HAD A GAME . . .

WE'RE ONLY GETTING OUR TEAM PHOTO TAKEN! MY SOFT TEAM WON'T EVEN COME OUT FOR THAT!
BNO. 28.8.76


Days later —
HUH! SOME TEAM PHOTO, EH, FANS? I'M SENDING IT TO "THE BEANO" ARTIST TO DRAW THE REST OF THE TEAM IN!

# BALL BOY

HEH! HEH! I'VE BEEN BEATING B. B. FOR SPEED ALL DAY!
PUFF!
PANT!

After the game
YOU USED TO BE OUR FASTEST PLAYER, B.B.— NOW YOU'RE OUR SLOWEST!
NO WONDER—HE'S PUT ON WEIGHT!
THERE'S ONE ANSWER TO THAT—A STARVATION DIET!
POKE

Next morning—
OH, BOY! I LOVE MY CRISPYFLAKES!

!
ZUNK

YOU'RE ON A STARVATION DIET. REMEMBER? YOU HAVE ONE, AND I'LL EAT THE REST!

Later—

GOOD! NOBODY AROUND— I'LL HAVE THIS.

ON A DIET, REMEMBER? LICK! LICK! SLURP!
SNATCH

At the next match—
GOOD! WE'VE STARVED B.B. THIN AGAIN!
WE'LL MAYBE GET SOME SPEEDY RUNS DOWN THE WING TODAY!

First half—
I'VE NOT HAD A KICK, YET!

Second half

Two minutes to go—
WHAT'VE I GOT TO DO TO GET A PASS?

Full time—
SOB! THEY NEVER PASSED THE BALL TO ME ONCE! THEY NOT ONLY STARVED ME DURING THE WEEK—THEY STARVED ME IN THE GAME, TOO!

# BALL BOY

HEY, PETE! COME AND HAVE A GAME WITH US!
ER—UM—NO. THANKS.

WONDER WHERE HE'S OFF TO? HE DOESN'T USUALLY TURN DOWN A GAME OF FOOTBALL.
LET'S FOLLOW HIM!

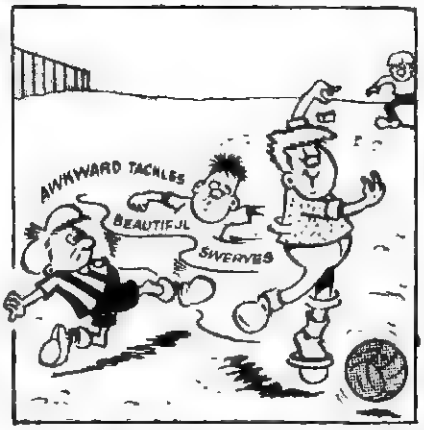
I—D—DON'T BELIEVE IT—HE'S GOING IN!
MISS PRIMM'S BALLET SCHOOL

WATCH NONE OF THE LITTLE GIRLS KICK YOU, PETE! HA! HA!

Later—
HAVE A GAME OF FOOTBALL WITH US, PETE—WE NASTY BOYS WON'T TACKLE YOU TOO HARD!

So—
DELICATE TAP

LOVELY LEAP


AWKWARD TACKLES
BEAUTIFUL SWERVES

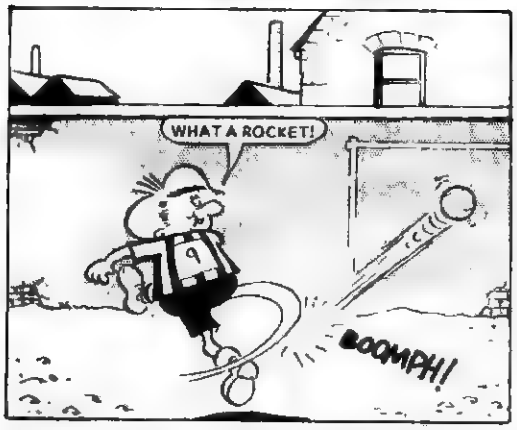
GRACEFUL BOOT!

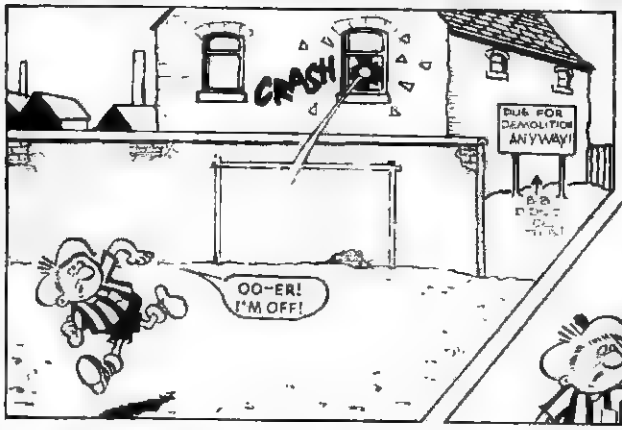
WHAT A GOAL! PITY "MATCH OF THE DAY" CAMERAS WEREN'T HERE!

Later—
THUD!
THUMP!
THUD!
IS THAT BOY PLAYING FOOTBALL IN HIS ROOM AGAIN?

MUST LEARN BALLET! IF YOU CAN'T BEAT THEM—JOIN THEM!
BALLET
UNGRACEFUL LEAP
CLUMP!
CLUMP!
?
BNO. 11 9 76

# BALL BOY


WHAT A ROCKET!
BOOMPH!


CRASH
DUG FOR DEMOLITION ANYWAY!
OO-ER! I'M OFF!

Later—
...BALL BOY... WANTED FOR TRIAL...
OH, NO! I MUST'VE BEEN SEEN BREAKING THAT WINDOW!

GUILTY OF BREAKING A WINDOW ON BOTH SIDES—TAKE HIM AWAY!

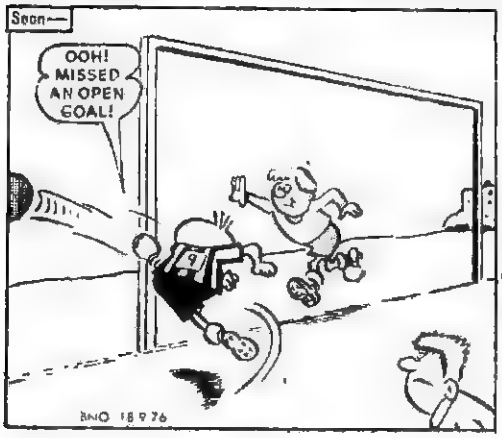
WHO CARES? I CAN STILL PLAY FOOTBALL!

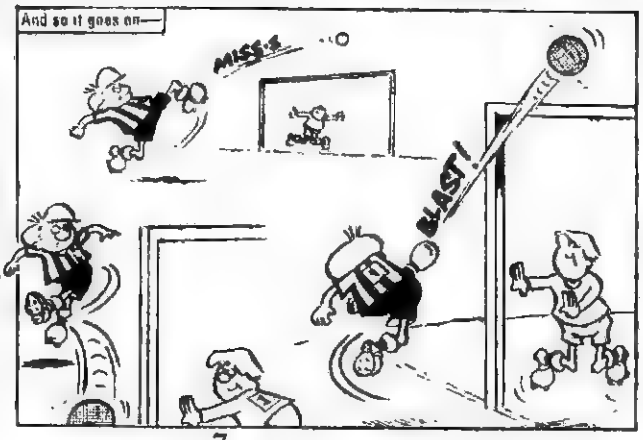
OOOH! MY TOE!
CLANK!

MAYBE I SHOULD DISGUISE MYSELF—WEAR CRICKET PADS OR SOMETHING!

Back home—
THIS MAN WANTS YOU FOR A TRIAL, SON.
SOB! DON'T LET HIM TAKE ME, DAD — I'M INNOCENT!

But—it's only a trial for Mudchester United's youth team—
PHEW! AM I RELIEVED, FANS!


Soon—
OOH! MISSED AN OPEN GOAL!
BNO 18 9 76


And so it goes on—
MISS-E
BLAST!

BAH! I FAILED THE TRIAL, FANS—I WAS GUILTY OF MISSING TOO MANY CHANCES!

# BALL BOY

LIKE MY FOOTBALL PROGRAMME COLLECTION, FANS? THEY'RE FROM ALL THE BIG GAMES I'VE BEEN TO.

HEY! I'VE JUST HAD AN IDEA! I MUST GET PROGRAMMES FOR MY OWN TEAM'S GAME TODAY!

HERE WE ARE!

"BEANO" PRINTING WORKS

But—

SORRY, B.B.—WE CAN'T PRINT ANY PROGRAMMES FOR YOU—WE'RE TOO BUSY PRINTING "BEANOS".

OH, WELL, I DON'T WANT THE BEANO TO BE LATE— I'LL JUST WRITE OUT A PROGRAMME.

I'LL WRITE A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ALL THE PLAYERS IN MY TEAM.

Ball Boy is a brilliant striker and he'd score more goals if his hopeless team could get the ball to him.

Before the match—

I'LL SEE WHAT THE TEAM THINK OF IT.

Not a lot—

SO WE'RE HOPELESS, EH?

OO—ER!

BASH HIM!

THUMP HIM!

SPIFLICATE HIM!

HELP!

ANGRY SHOUTS!

PHEW! MADE IT!

SLAM!

BNO 25 9.76

I'LL STICK TO THIS KIND OF PROGRAMME UNTIL MY TEAM COOLS DOWN!

GAME OF THE DAY

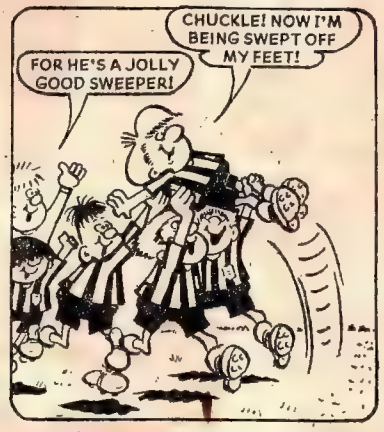
# BALL BOY

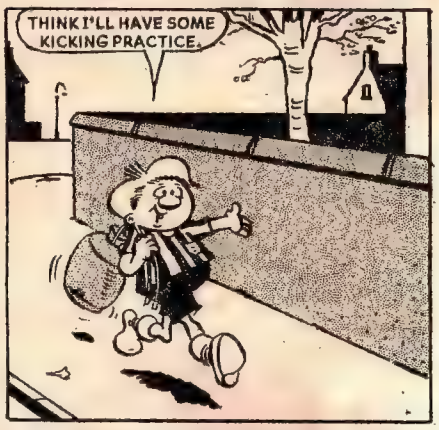
I'M PLAYING SWEEPER TODAY— THAT MEANS BEING AT THE BACK OF THE DEFENCE TO GET THE BALL WHEN OTHER DEFENDERS MISS IT.
GOOD! WE'LL MAYBE SCORE MORE GOALS WITH YOU OUT OF THE FORWARD LINE!

SEE HOW I SWEPT THE BALL OFF HIS FEET, FANS?

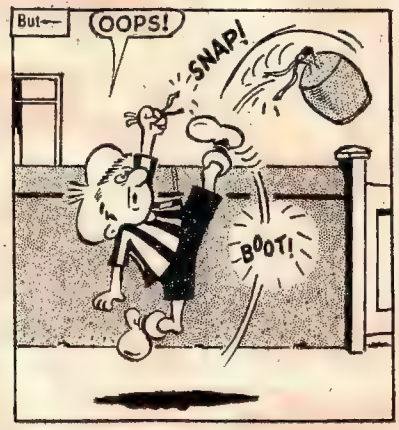
AND HOW ABOUT THAT FOR A LONG SWEEPING PASS, EH?

At full-time—
WELL PLAYED, B.B.!
WE GOT A DRAW, THANKS TO YOU!

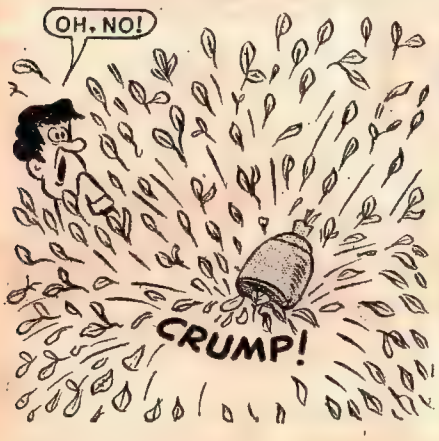

CHUCKLE! NOW I'M BEING SWEPT OFF MY FEET!
FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD SWEEPER!


THINK I'LL HAVE SOME KICKING PRACTICE.

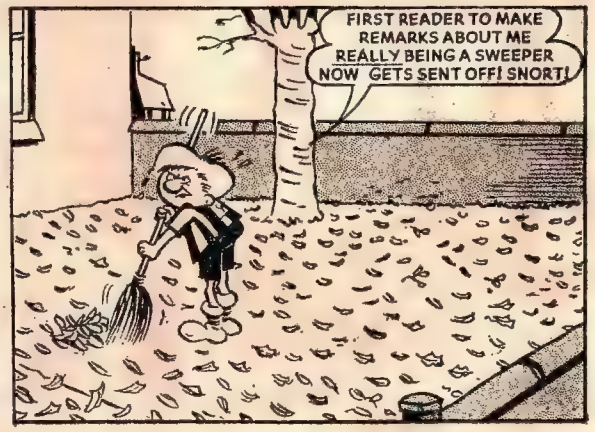
DON'T EVEN NEED A FOOTBALL.


But—
OOPS!
SNAP!
BOOT!

OOOH! THAT'S THE LEAVES TAKEN CARE OF.


OH, NO!
CRUMP!

COME HERE, MY FOOTBALL-MAD SON!
BNO. 2.10.76


FIRST READER TO MAKE REMARKS ABOUT ME REALLY BEING A SWEEPER NOW GETS SENT OFF! SNORT!

# BALL BOY

YOU, BOY! I ASKED YOU A QUESTION!

WHAT HAPPENED IN 1066?

WAS THAT WHEN FRANCE BEAT ENGLAND IN THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL MATCH?

Back home—

WHY SO MISERABLE, SON?

BAH! TEACHER GAVE ME LINES!

GLUM

Next day—

WHAT DOES THAT ADD UP TO?

OH, THAT'S THE FORMATION MUDCHESTER UTD. PLAYED LAST WEEK!

HA! HA!

Back home—

MORE LINES TO DO?

SIGH! YES!

GLUM

Next day—

NOW LAD, WHERE WAS THE LAST BATTLE BETWEEN THE SCOTS AND THE ENGLISH?

WAS IT AT HAMPDEN PARK?

LINES AGAIN?

HUMPH! YES!

GLUM

Next evening—

CAN'T STOP, DAD—GOT TO GET BACK TO SCHOOL TO DO SOME LINES!

CHEERFUL

WHY'S HE SO CHEERFUL ABOUT DOING LINES?

CHEERY TUNE

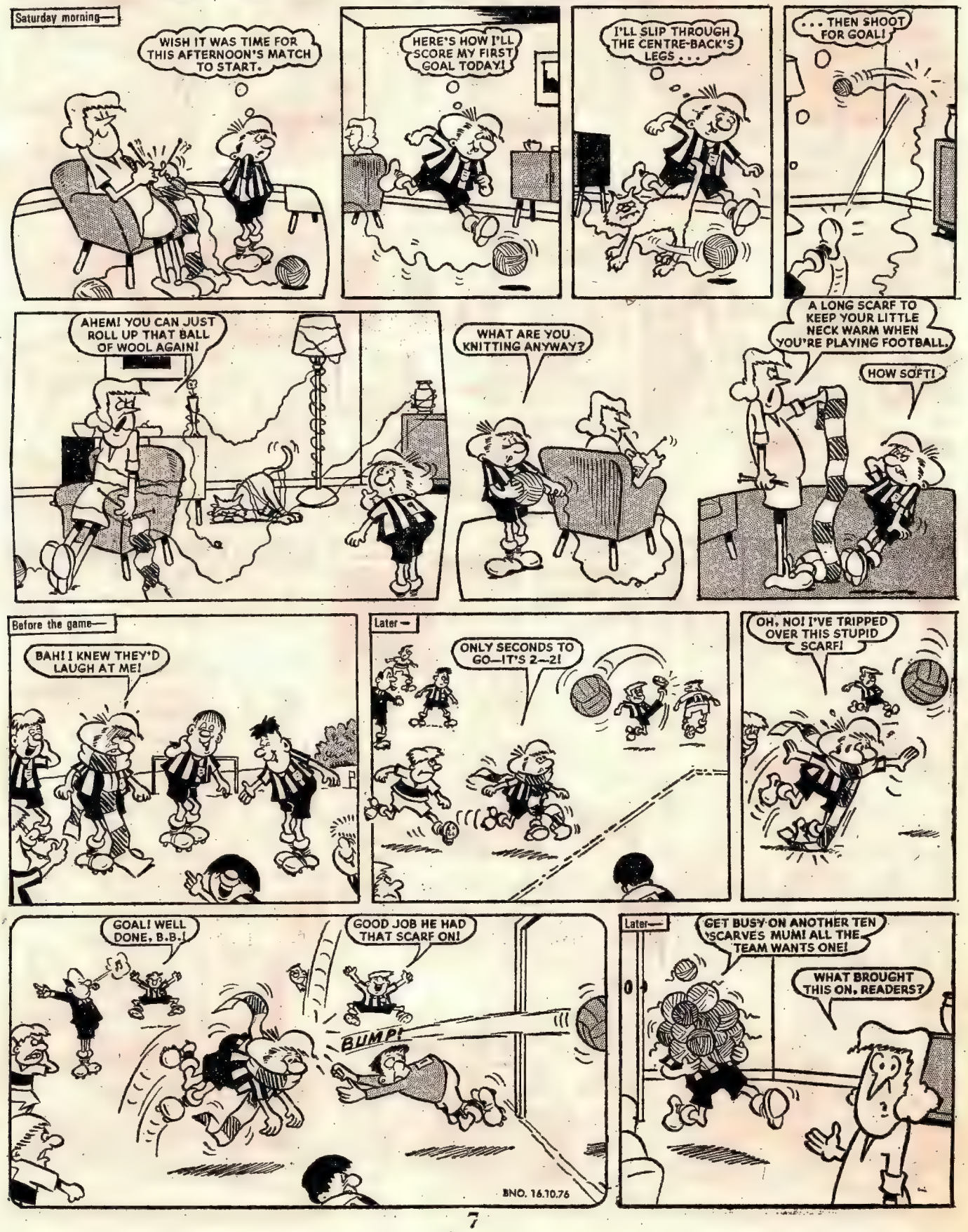
SOMETHING FUNNY GOING ON HERE!

SCHOOL LEAGUE MATCH TONIGHT

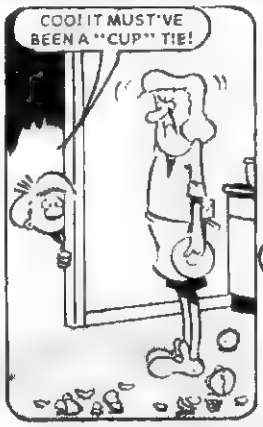
I MIGHT'VE GUESSED!

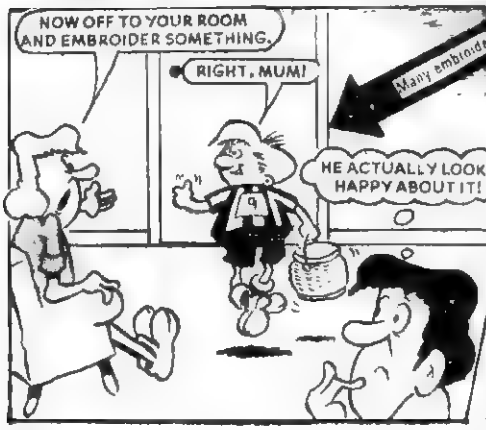
DON'T MIND DOING THIS KIND OF LINES! HEH! HEH!

# BALL BOY


Saturday morning—
WISH IT WAS TIME FOR THIS AFTERNOON'S MATCH TO START.
HERE'S HOW I'LL SCORE MY FIRST GOAL TODAY!
I'LL SLIP THROUGH THE CENTRE-BACK'S LEGS . . .
. . . THEN SHOOT FOR GOAL!
AHEM! YOU CAN JUST ROLL UP THAT BALL OF WOOL AGAIN!
WHAT ARE YOU KNITTING ANYWAY?
A LONG SCARF TO KEEP YOUR LITTLE NECK WARM WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING FOOTBALL.
HOW SOFT!
Before the game—
BAH! I KNEW THEY'D LAUGH AT ME!
Later—
ONLY SECONDS TO GO—IT'S 2—2!
OH, NO! I'VE TRIPPED OVER THIS STUPID SCARF!
GOAL! WELL DONE, B.B.!
GOOD JOB HE HAD THAT SCARF ON!
BUMP!
BNO. 16.10.76
Later—
GET BUSY ON ANOTHER TEN SCARVES MUM! ALL THE TEAM WANTS ONE!
WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON, READERS?

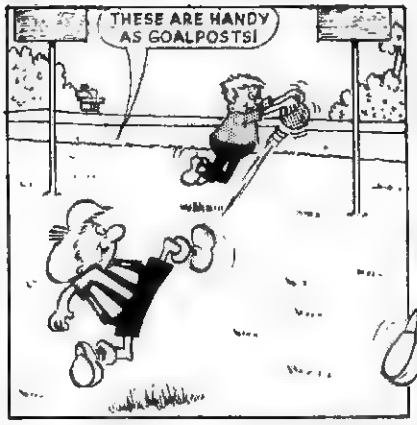
# BALL BOY

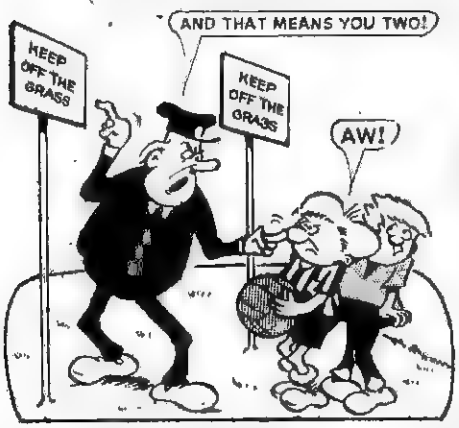





Many embroidery lessons later—

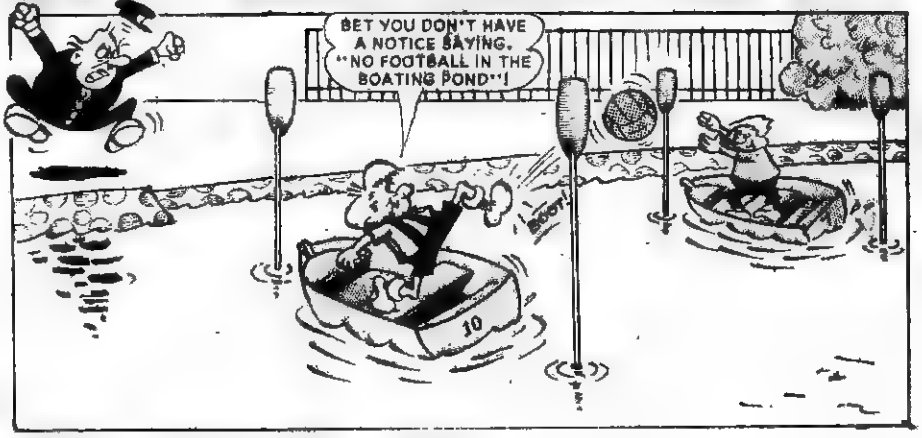
# BALL BOY





GOAL!

SHOOT!

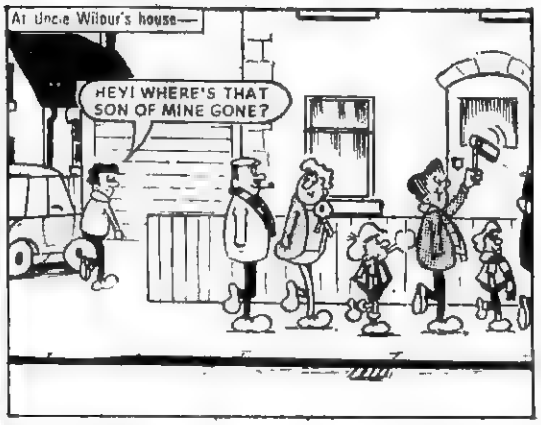



BNO. 5.3.77

# BALL BOY

GET IN, SON—WE'RE GOING TO EVERPOOL.

COO! DAD— ARE YOU TAKING ME TO SEE THE CUP-TIE?
AFRAID NOT— WE'RE GOING TO VISIT YOUR UNCLE WILBUR.
HUH! OLD BORE! I'D RATHER GO TO THE MATCH, TOO.

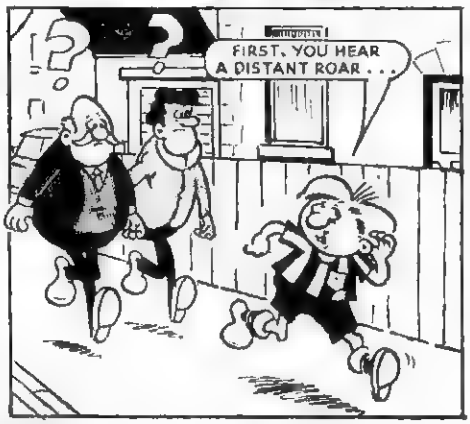

At Uncle Wilbur's house—
HEY! WHERE'S THAT SON OF MINE GONE?

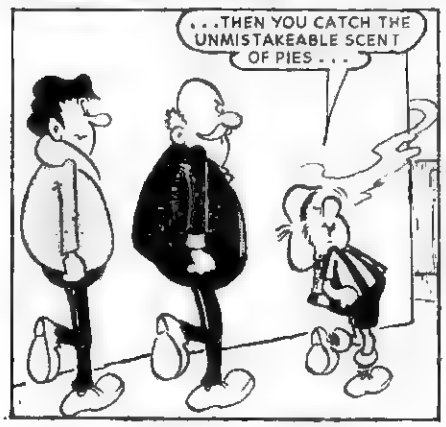
NO SNEAKING OFF! UNCLE WILBUR'S WAITING FOR US.
WILBUR? WILL BORE, YOU MEAN!

TROPHIES FROM MY BIG-GAME HUNTING DAYS, Y' KNOW.

I'M AN EXCELLENT SHOT, Y'KNOW.

SO AM I—YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE SHOT I SCORED WITH LAST WEEK!
SILLY BOY—YOU'D NEVER MAKE A BIG-GAME HUNTER.
IS THAT SO, UNCLE? JUST FOLLOW ME!
WHAT'S HE UP TO?


FIRST, YOU HEAR A DISTANT ROAR . . .


. . . THEN YOU CATCH THE UNMISTAKEABLE SCENT OF PIES . . .

HA! HA!
. . . THERE! I'VE TRACKED DOWN A BIG GAME!
EVERPOOL V LIVERTON
BNO 6.11.76

WELL DONE, SON—NOW WE WON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO UNCLE WILBUR ALL AFTERNOON!

# BALL BOY

IS MY FOOTBALL KIT READY YET, MUM?
NOT QUITE—HAVE AN ORANGE WHILE YOU'RE WAITING, SON

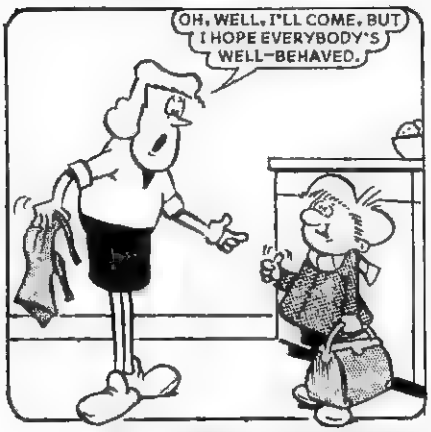
I MEANT TO EAT!

THAT'S YOUR BOOTS POLISHED AND SHIRT IRONED. MUST HAVE YOU TIDY FOR TODAY'S GAME.
WHY DON'T YOU COME AND WATCH ME, MUM?

WHAT? STAND IN A NOISY ROWDY FOOTBALL CROWD? NO CHANCE!
BUT, MUM—THERE WERE ONLY TWO SPECTATORS AT OUR LAST GAME—OLD MR WILLIS AND HIS DOG.

AND HE'S SO SHORT-SIGHTED HE THOUGHT IT WAS A CRICKET MATCH!

WELL BOWLED, SIR!


OH, WELL, I'LL COME, BUT I HOPE EVERYBODY'S WELL-BEHAVED.

So, later—
MUST LET MUM SEE ME SCORING A FEW GOALS.

HEY! I JUST POLISHED THOSE BOOTS THIS MORNING!
SPLISH! SPLASH!

LEAVE MY SON ALONE, YOU BIG BULLY!
SPLUP!
BNO. 13.11.76

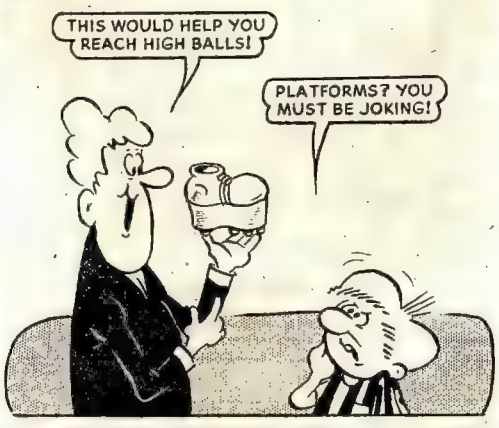
AFTER ALL THE TIME I SPENT WASHING AND IRONING!

LOOK AT WHO WAS TALKING ABOUT ROWDY FOOTBALL CROWDS!
CALM DOWN, MADAM!

# BALL BOY

I NEED A NEW PAIR OF BOOTS—THESE ONES ARE USELESS!
THEY LOOK PERFECTLY GOOD!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE LATEST STYLE?
COO! YES!


THIS WOULD HELP YOU REACH HIGH BALLS!
PLATFORMS? YOU MUST BE JOKING!

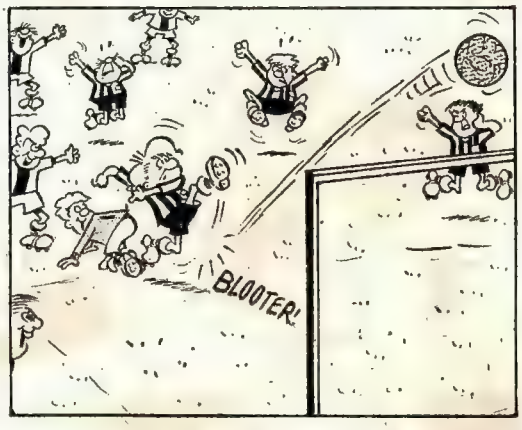
Much later—
AH! THESE ARE BETTER!
THEY'RE EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE ONES HE'S GOT!

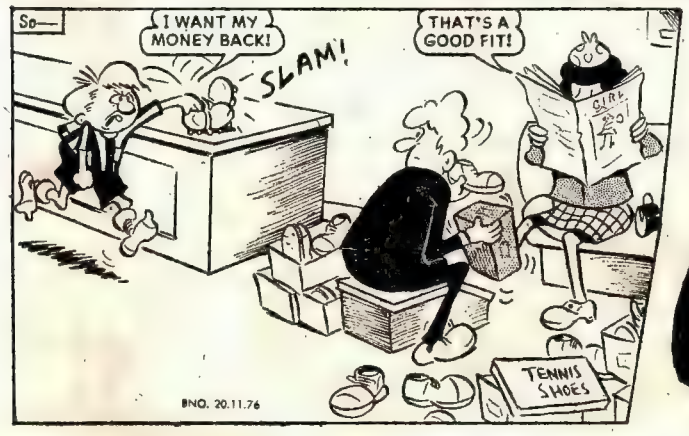
MUST TRY THEM OUT FIRST!

B.B. DRIBBLES PAST ALL THE LUNGING FEET!

YES! I'LL TAKE THESE!

That afternoon—
HE CAN'T MISS!

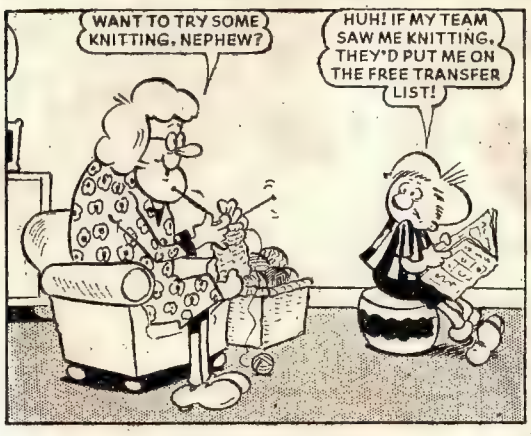

BLOOTER!

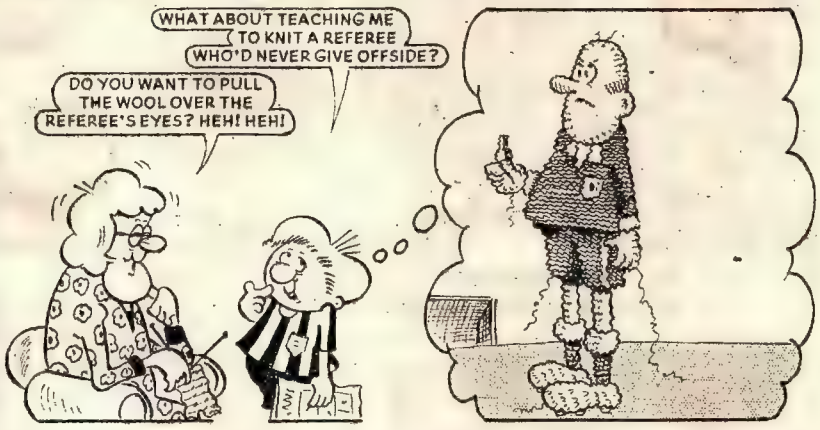

So—
I WANT MY MONEY BACK!
SLAM!
THAT'S A GOOD FIT!
TENNIS SHOES
BNO. 20.11.76

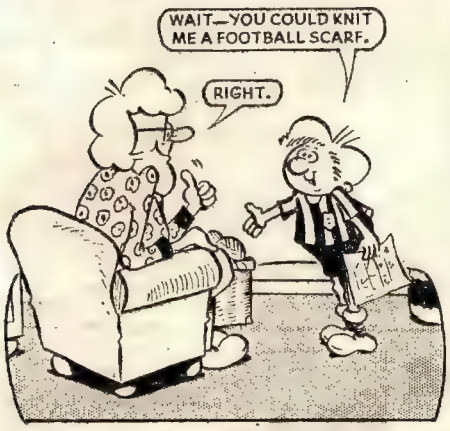
B—BUT YOU SAID THEY WERE COMFORTABLE!
SO I DID . . .

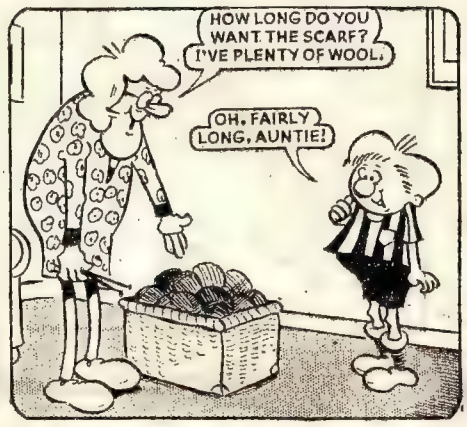
. . . BUT THE PESKY THINGS MISS EASY CHANCES. JUST LIKE MY OLD ONES!
HUH! IT'S A NEW PAIR OF FEET HE NEEDS!

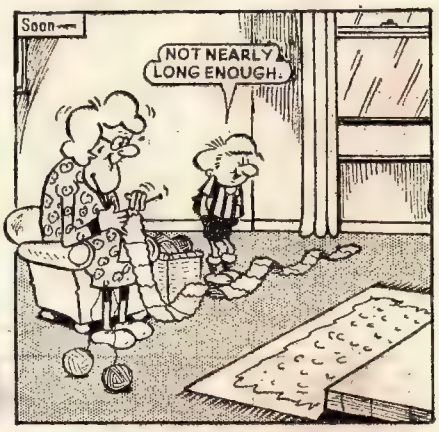
# BALL BOY


WANT TO TRY SOME KNITTING, NEPHEW?
HUH! IF MY TEAM SAW ME KNITTING, THEY'D PUT ME ON THE FREE TRANSFER LIST!


DO YOU WANT TO PULL THE WOOL OVER THE REFEREE'S EYES? HEH! HEH!
WHAT ABOUT TEACHING ME TO KNIT A REFEREE WHO'D NEVER GIVE OFFSIDE?


WAIT—YOU COULD KNIT ME A FOOTBALL SCARF.
RIGHT.

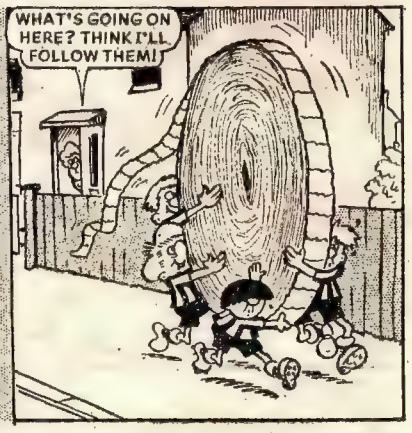

HOW LONG DO YOU WANT THE SCARF? I'VE PLENTY OF WOOL.
OH, FAIRLY LONG, AUNTIE!

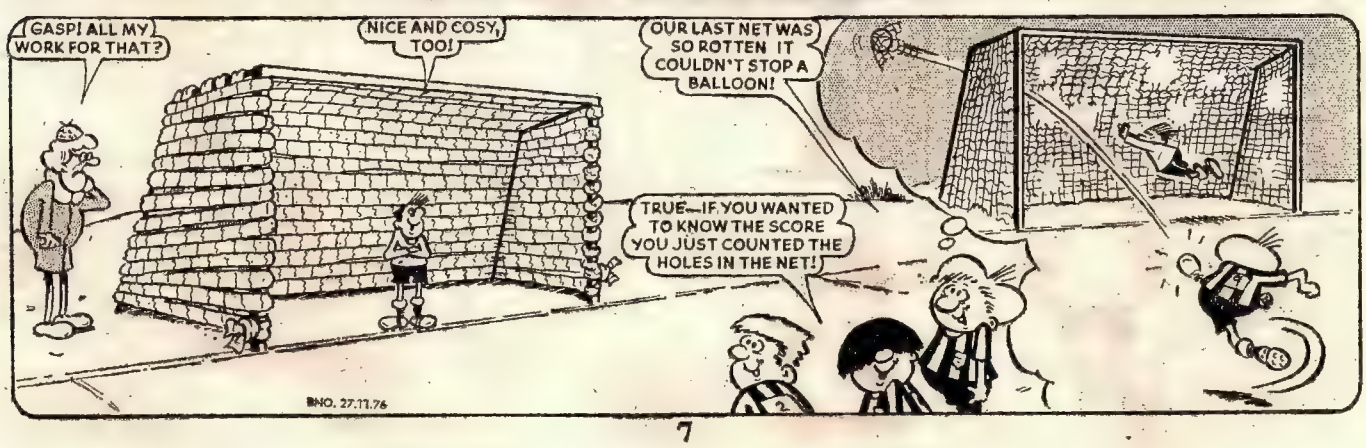

Soon—
NOT NEARLY LONG ENOUGH.

Later—
LONGER YET, AUNTIE.

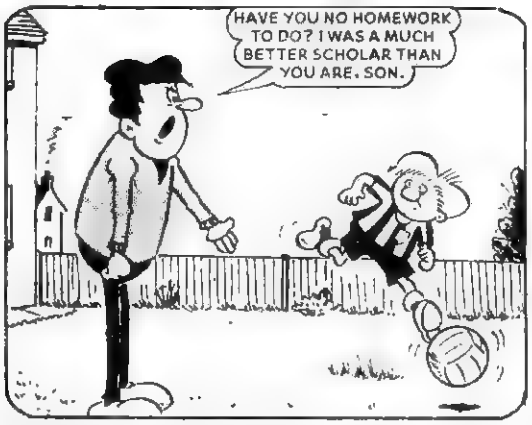
Even later—
THAT'LL DO!

I'LL GET SOME OF MY TEAM-MATES TO HELP ME CARRY IT.


WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? THINK I'LL FOLLOW THEM!


GASP! ALL MY WORK FOR THAT?
NICE AND COSY, TOO!
OUR LAST NET WAS SO ROTTEN IT COULDN'T STOP A BALLOON!
TRUE—IF YOU WANTED TO KNOW THE SCORE YOU JUST COUNTED THE HOLES IN THE NET!
BNO. 27.11.76

# BALL BOY

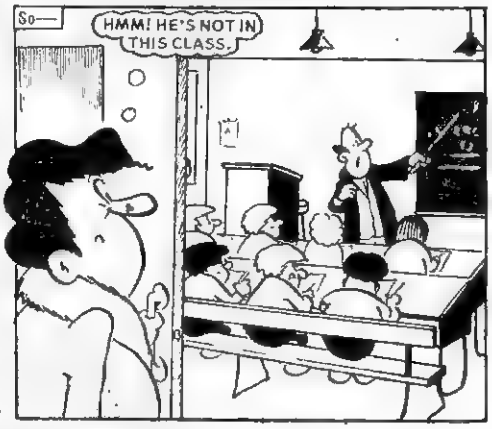

HAVE YOU NO HOMEWORK TO DO? I WAS A MUCH BETTER SCHOLAR THAN YOU ARE, SON.

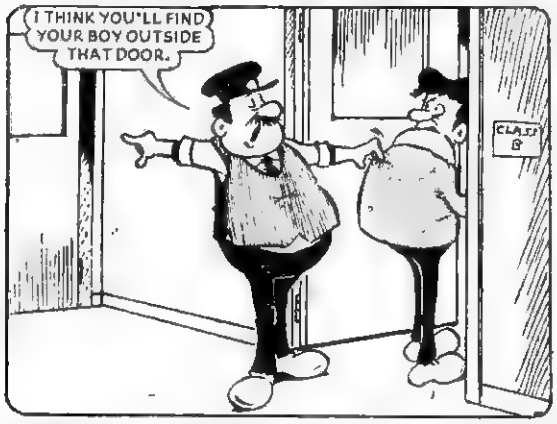
OK—COME ALONG TO SCHOOL TOMORROW—IT'S OPEN DAY, AND PARENTS CAN JOIN IN THE LESSONS.

OO—ER—OH, WELL, OK, I'LL COME . . .

Next day—
MUST BE AT MY BEST FOR JOINING THE LESSONS . . . SEVEN TWOS ARE FOURTEEN . . .
SWOTTING HARD
TIMES TABLE

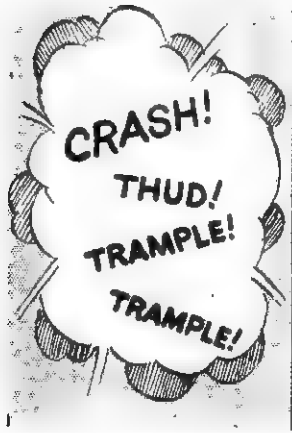
I'LL SOON SHOW MY SON HOW GOOD I WAS AT LESSONS WHEN I JOIN IN.


So—
HMM! HE'S NOT IN THIS CLASS.

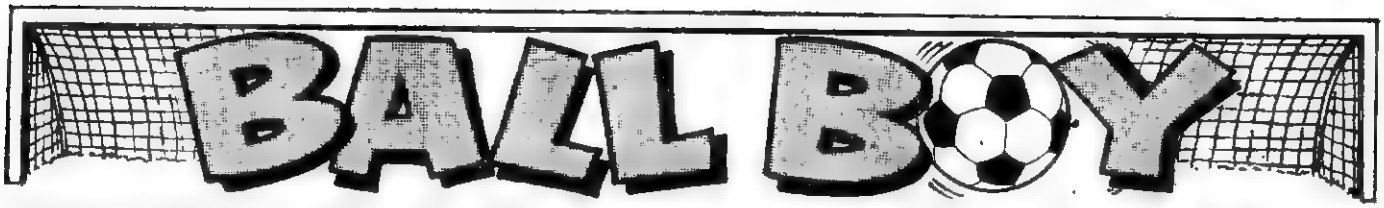

I THINK YOU'LL FIND YOUR BOY OUTSIDE THAT DOOR.
CLASS B

WHAT LESSONS COULD HE BE GETTING OUT HERE?

TACKLE!
SHOOT!
PASS!
FOUL!


CRASH!
THUD!
TRAMPLE!
TRAMPLE!

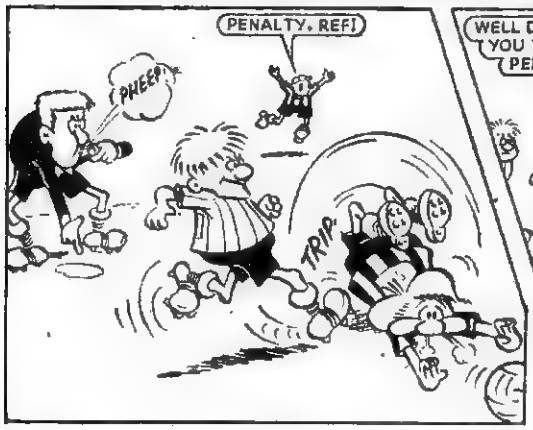
COME ON, DAD—JOIN IN THE LESSONS! IT'S SPORT THIS AFTERNOON AND YOU'RE IN OUR TEAM!
GROAN! THIS LESSON I CAN DO WITHOUT!
BND. 4.12.76


BALL BOY

LINAMENT FOR ACHES PAINS. I FOUND IT IN THE CUPBOARD.
PHEW! SMELLS LIKE ANCIENT CABBAGES!
BONG

TIME FOR KICK-OFF, LADS.
I'LL PUT THIS BOTTLE BACK IN TO CUPBOARD.

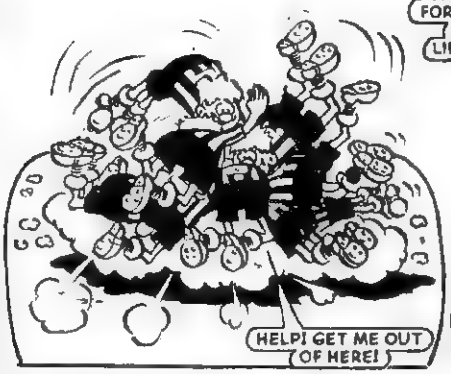
WHAT A CHANCE TO—


PENALTY, REF!
PHEEP!
TRIP

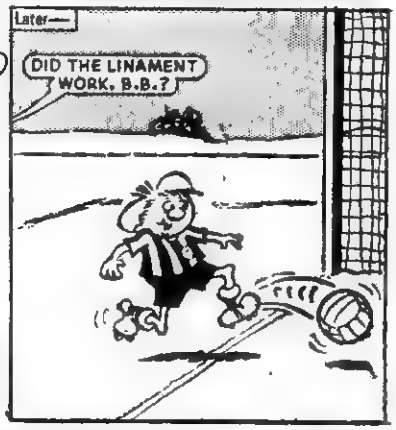
WELL DONE, B.B.! YOU TAKE THE PENALTY!
OUCH! I'LL HARDLY BE ABLE TO, AFTER ALL THIS BACK-SLAPPING!

GREAT SPOT-KICK!
OH—
—NO!

GREAT GOAL!
WHAT A SHOT!
GULP! NO—NO!
BRILLIANT!
SUPER!


HELP! GET ME OUT OF HERE!

GROAN! I'M GOING OFF FOR SOME TREATMENT— I'LL SEE IF THAT LINAMENT WILL HELP.


Later—
DID THE LINAMENT WORK, B.B.?

I'LL SAY IT DID—NO MORE PAINFUL CONGRATULATIONS!
TALK TO HIM, REF—MY TEAM WON'T TACKLE HIM!
TALK TO HIM YOURSELF— I'M KEEPING MY DISTANCE!
AWFUL LINAMENT SMELL
PHEW!
PHEW!
PHEW!
ANO 11 12 74

# BALL BOY

MERRY CHRISTMAS, FANS! WE'RE HOLDING OUR MATCH THIS MORNING SO'S WE CAN ALL BE BACK FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER.

So—
OUR THROW-IN! YOU TAKE IT, B.B!

THROW-W

Soon—
OUR THROW-IN!
YOU TAKE IT, B.B!

And—

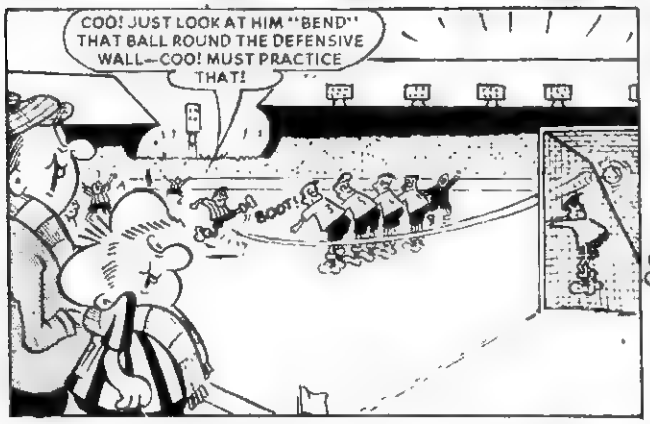
Later—
OUR THROW-IN!
YOU TAKE IT, B.B!

All through the game—
LATER
YOU TAKE IT, SON.
SPLUP!
BNO. 18 12 76

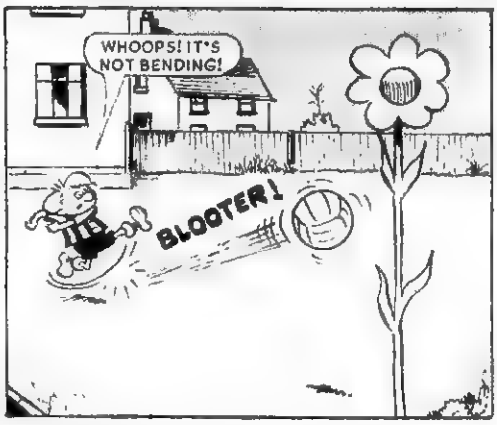
SOMEBODY BRING THE CHRISTMAS PUDDING IN.

S-SORRY, MUM— FORCE OF HABIT!

# BALL BOY

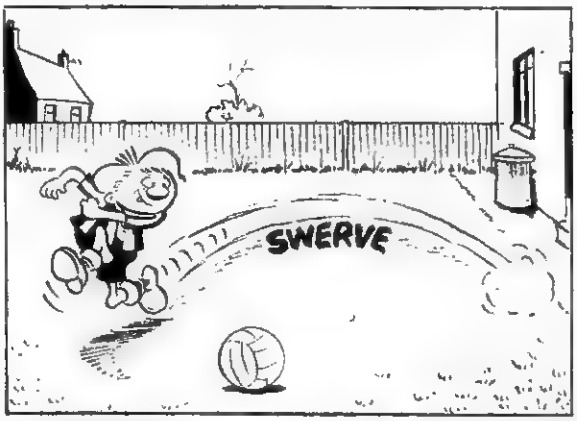

COO! JUST LOOK AT HIM "BEND" THAT BALL ROUND THE DEFENSIVE WALL—COO! MUST PRACTICE THAT!
BOOT!

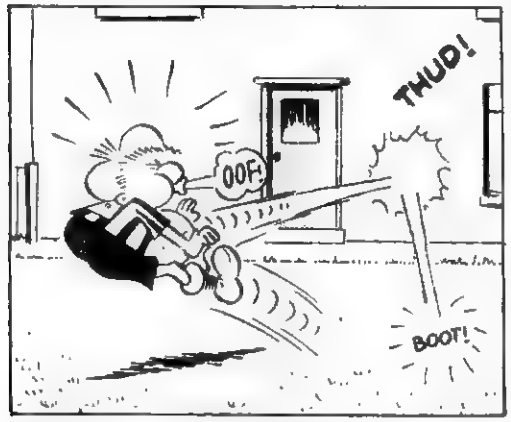
Back home—
ONE SWERVING SHOT COMING UP!


WHOOPS! IT'S NOT BENDING!
BLOOTER!

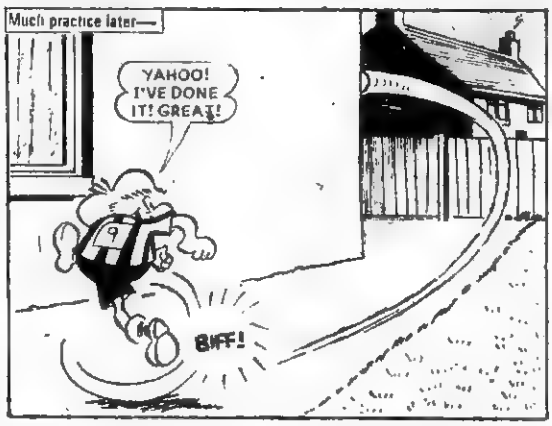
OOPS! DAD'S SUNFLOWER IS BENT, THOUGH!
THUMP!

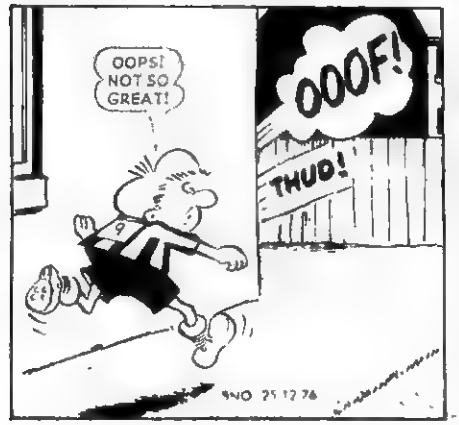
MAYBE IF I TOOK A SWERVING RUN THE BALL WOULD BEND?


SWERVE


THUD!
OOF!
BOOT!

GROAN! THIS IS DRIVING ME ROUND THE BEND!


Much practice later—
YAHOO! I'VE DONE IT! GREAT!
BIFF!


OOPS! NOT SO GREAT!
OOOF!
THUD!
BNO 25 12 76

ER—I SEE YOU SAVED MY BENDING SHOT, D—DAD . . .
I'VE WARNED YOU ABOUT PLAYING FOOTBALL IN THE GARDEN . . .

. . . BEND!

# BALL BOY

HI, FANS! I'M GOING TO HAVE SOME SHOOTING PRACTICE TODAY!
BOMPH!
BOMPH!
ERK! THE KEEPER SNATCHES THE BALL OFF B.B.'S HEAD!
NEVER MIND THE FOOTBALL—YOU PROMISED TO BEAT THE CARPET FOR ME TODAY!
AW, MUM!
HELLO, ROGER! GOOD! I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD HELP ME WITH A DODGE . . .
And—
. . . OF COURSE! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT!
I'M GOING TO ENJOY THIS!
. . . AND THE WHISTLE BLOWS FOR THE BIG KICK-OFF!
BAKERS
PHEEP!
BAKER!
1–0 ALREADY!
THUD!
PUFF! ANOTHER GOAL! THIS GAME'S BEING PLAYED IN FOGGY CONDITIONS!
BIFF!
THERE GOES THE FULL-TIME WHISTLE! GREAT GAME!
PHEEP!
WELL, DID YOU BEAT MY CARPET!
?
YES—18–0! EASY! EASY!
BNO. 1.1.77

# BALL BOY

YOUR UNCLE'S COMING TO TEA—HE'S A CAPTAIN . . .

He's got a one-track mind!

. . . OF A FIRST DIVISION CLUB? YAHOO!

I'LL IMPRESS MY UNCLE SO MUCH HE'LL SIGN ME UP FOR HIS TEAM!

KNOCK! KNOCK!

I CAN PLAY ANYWHERE IN THE FORWARD LINE, AND I'M GOOD AT PENALTY KICKS!

GLAD TO HEAR IT, BUT I'VE COME FOR THE MILK MONEY!

Later—

HOPE THAT'S MY UNCLE THIS TIME!

KNOCK! KNOCK!

OH, NO! HE'S THAT KIND OF A CAPTAIN!

I THINK HE WAS EXPECTING A FAMOUS FOOTBALLER.

HO! HO! SO THAT'S IT! I'M CAPTAIN OF AN OIL TANKER.

After—

SO YOU'RE A FOOTBALL FAN, EH? WELL, I'VE A SURPRISE FOR YOU.

DOCKS

I SUPPOSE YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNEL?

PARP!

HALF-TIME!

IS THAT THE REF. THEY'RE CHASING?

NO—THE SHIP'S COOK!

HE'S TAKING A DIVE, REF!

OH! OH! THEY'RE BRINGING ON THEIR "SUB"!

12

GLUB!

HEH! HEH! DECK FOOTBALL'S GREAT!

WHAT DOES THAT SIGNAL SAY?

OFFSIDE!

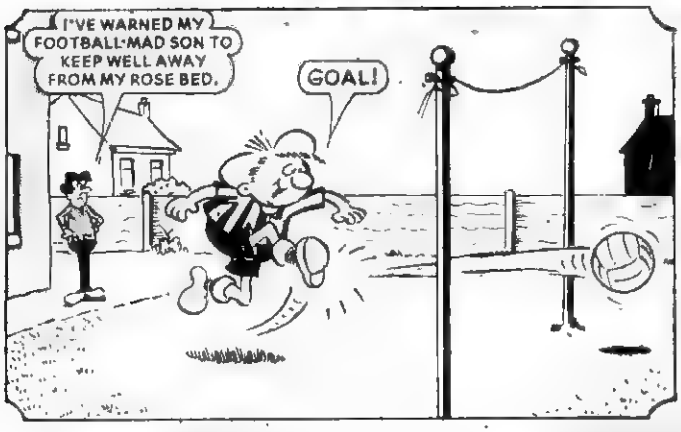
HAVE YOU BEEN TO SEE ANY MATCHES LATELY?

NO—I'VE JUST BEEN TO SEA!

YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT THROW-INS!

BNO. 8.1.77

# BALL BOY

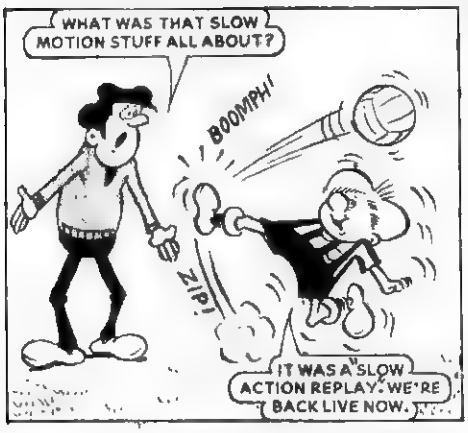

I'VE WARNED MY FOOTBALL-MAD SON TO KEEP WELL AWAY FROM MY ROSE BED.
GOAL!

I'LL STAY HERE AND KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.

WHY'S HE DRAWING HIS LEG BACK SLOWLY?

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM KICK A BALL SOFTLY LIKE THAT . . .
GENTLE TAP!
TRUNDLE-E

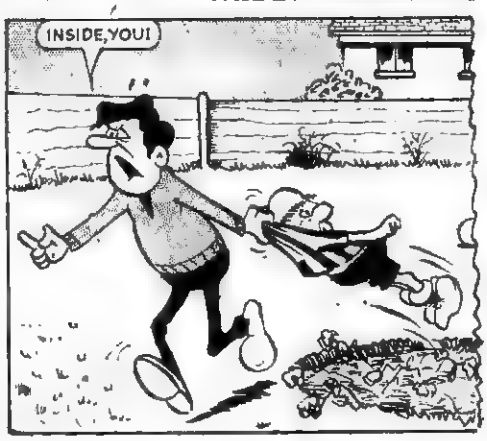
HE'S EVEN LIFTING HIS ARMS SLOWLY—CAN'T BE OLD AGE!
SLOW
SLOW
G-O—A L!
CRAWL-L


WHAT WAS THAT SLOW MOTION STUFF ALL ABOUT?
BOOMPH!
ZIP!
IT WAS A SLOW ACTION REPLAY. WE'RE BACK LIVE NOW.

THE BALL HEADS FOR A RUCK OF DEFENDERS!

SEE HOW I "ROSE" ABOVE THE DEFENCE?

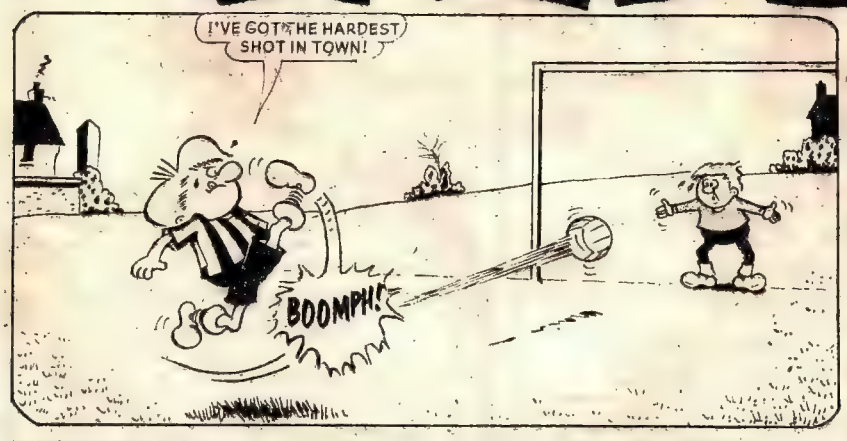
. . . AND THE DEFENDERS ARE LEFT SHAKING THEIR HEADS . . .
AAGH!
SHAKE

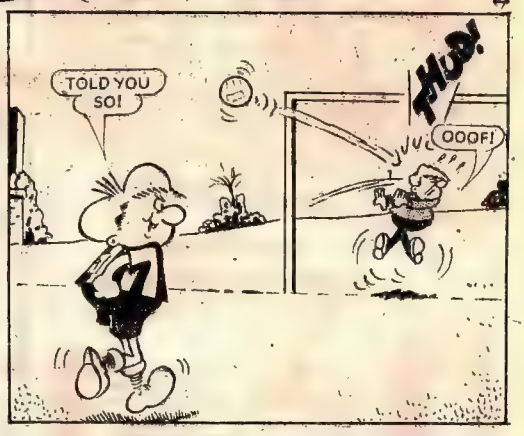

INSIDE, YOU!

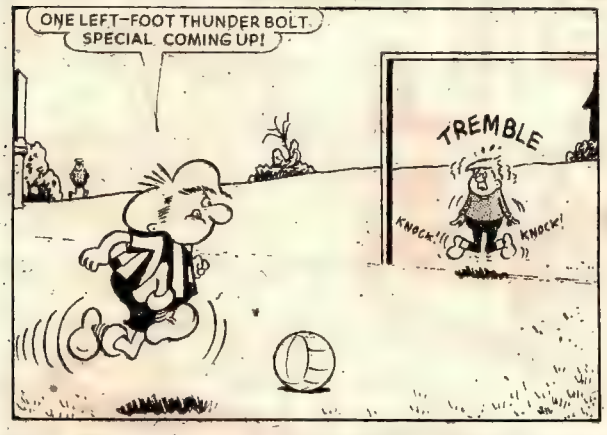
WHACK!
WHACK!
OOYAH!

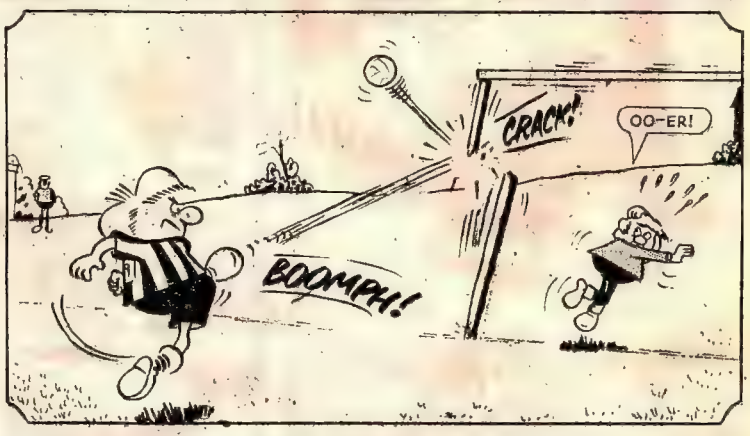
DON'T WANT AN ACTION REPLAY OF THAT! GROAN!
BMO 15.1.77

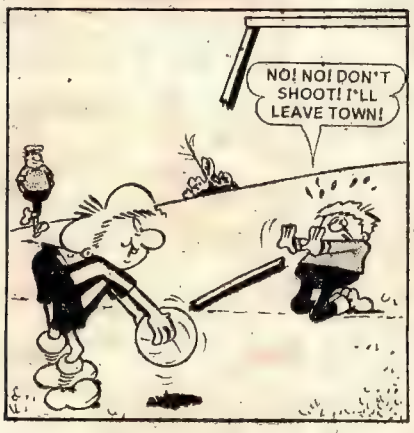
# BALL BOY

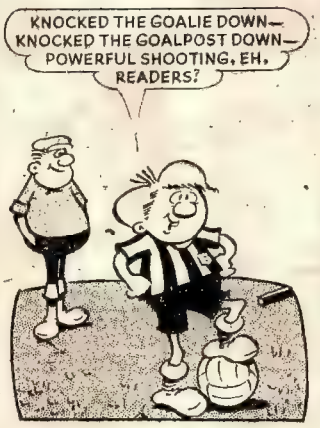

I'VE GOT THE HARDEST SHOT IN TOWN!
BOOMPH!

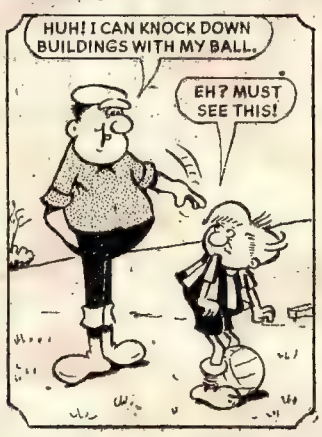

TOLD YOU SO!
THUD!
OOOF!


ONE LEFT-FOOT THUNDER BOLT SPECIAL COMING UP!
TREMBLE
KNOCK!
KNOCK!

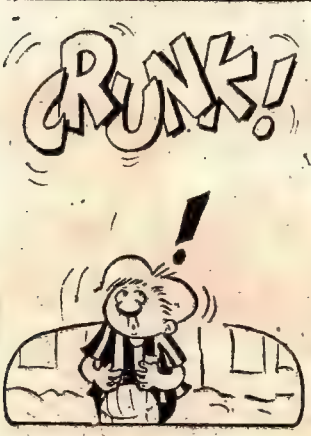

CRACK!
OO-ER!
BOOMPH!

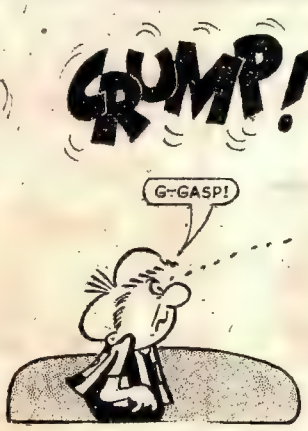

NO! NO! DON'T SHOOT! I'LL LEAVE TOWN!

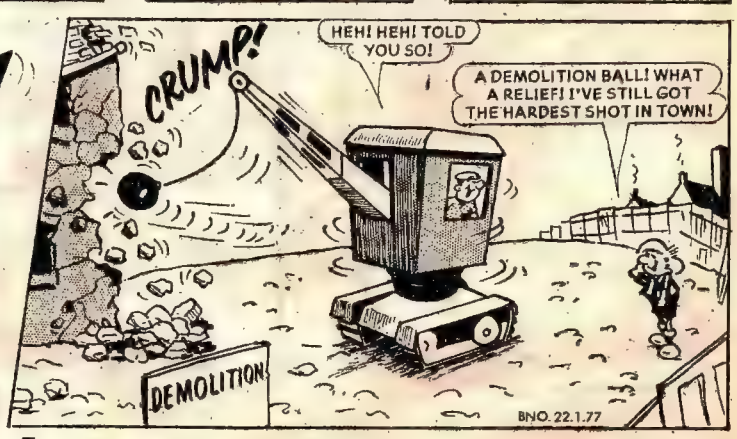

KNOCKED THE GOALIE DOWN— KNOCKED THE GOALPOST DOWN— POWERFUL SHOOTING, EH, READERS?


HUH! I CAN KNOCK DOWN BUILDINGS WITH MY BALL.
EH? MUST SEE THIS!

A short walk later—
HOLD ON—I'M JUST GOING FOR MY BALL.


CRUNK!
!


CRUMP!
G-GASP!


CRUMP!
HEH! HEH! TOLD YOU SO!
A DEMOLITION BALL! WHAT A RELIEF! I'VE STILL GOT THE HARDEST SHOT IN TOWN!
DEMOLITION
BNO. 22.1.77

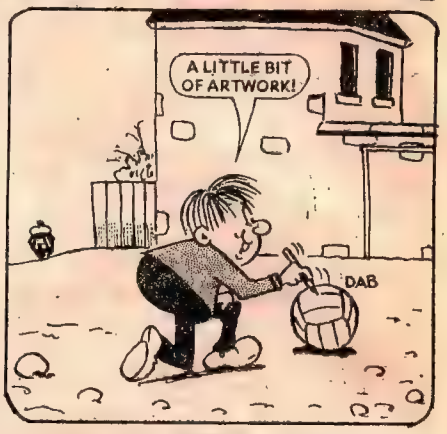
# BALL BOY

GIVE ME THAT BALL— YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FOOTBALL ANYWAY!
NED NASTY
THUMP!
SO, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FOOTBALL, EH?
HEH! HEH!
AARGH! MY ANKLE!
WELL, I KNOW HOW TO DO A SLIDING TACKLE...
...AND A DIVING HEADER...
BOOMPH!
THUD!
...AND HOW TO...
...SWERVE A BALL...
WHUMP!
OOF!
BOOT!
...AND HOW TO DO A CUTE BACK-HEELER...
OOF!
...AND FIRE IN A FIERCE GROUNDER...
...AND HOW TO TAKE A THROW-IN...
...AND HOW TO DODGE A WILD TACKLE...
SWIPE-E
GRR! GNASH! I'LL PULVERISE YOU!
...AND...
LIMP
ROAR! COME BACK!
...HOW TO ORDER MYSELF OFF! HA! HA!
LIMP
BNO. 29.1.77

# BALL BOY

HI, FANS—I'M OFF TO SEE IF THERE'S A FOOTBALL MATCH I CAN WATCH.

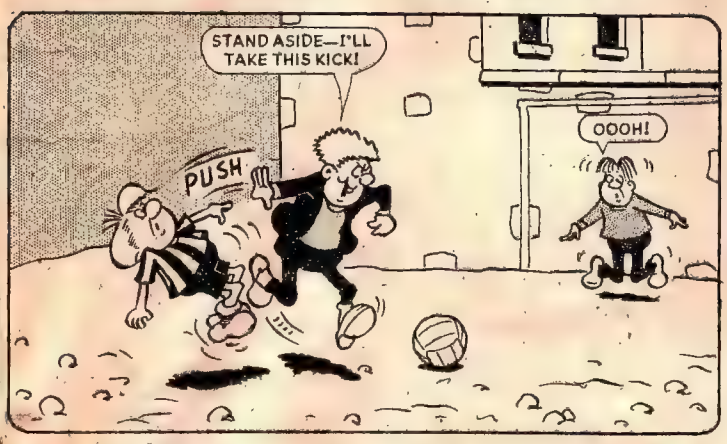
Later—
HUH! NOT A SINGLE GAME TO BE FOUND.
HEY! THAT ROUND ROCK GIVES ME AN IDEA HOW TO GET MY REVENGE ON B.B. FOR SCORING FIVE GOALS AGAINST ME LAST WEEK.
RIVAL TEAM'S GOALKEEPER

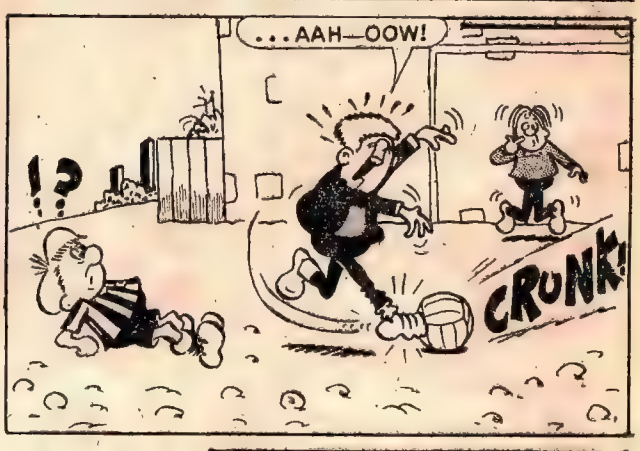

A LITTLE BIT OF ARTWORK!
DAB

And—
HEY, B.B.! BET YOU CAN'T SCORE AGAINST ME!
EH?

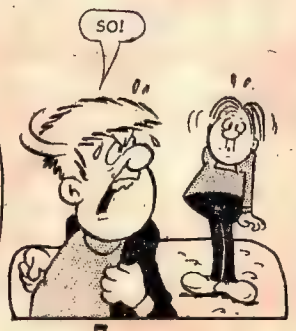
EASY! I SCORED PLENTY AGAINST YOU LAST TIME WE PLAYED!
HEE! HEE!

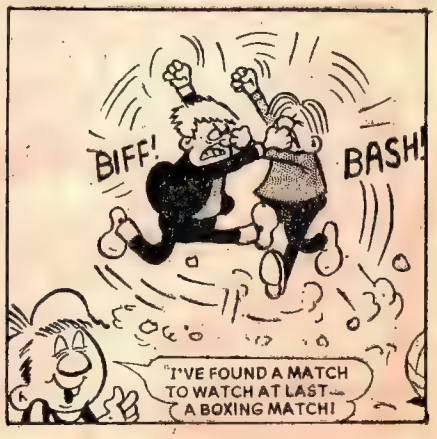
NOW FOR MY ROCKET SPECIAL!
SNIGGER! MY ROCK SPECIAL MORE LIKE!


STAND ASIDE—I'LL TAKE THIS KICK!
PUSH
OOOH!

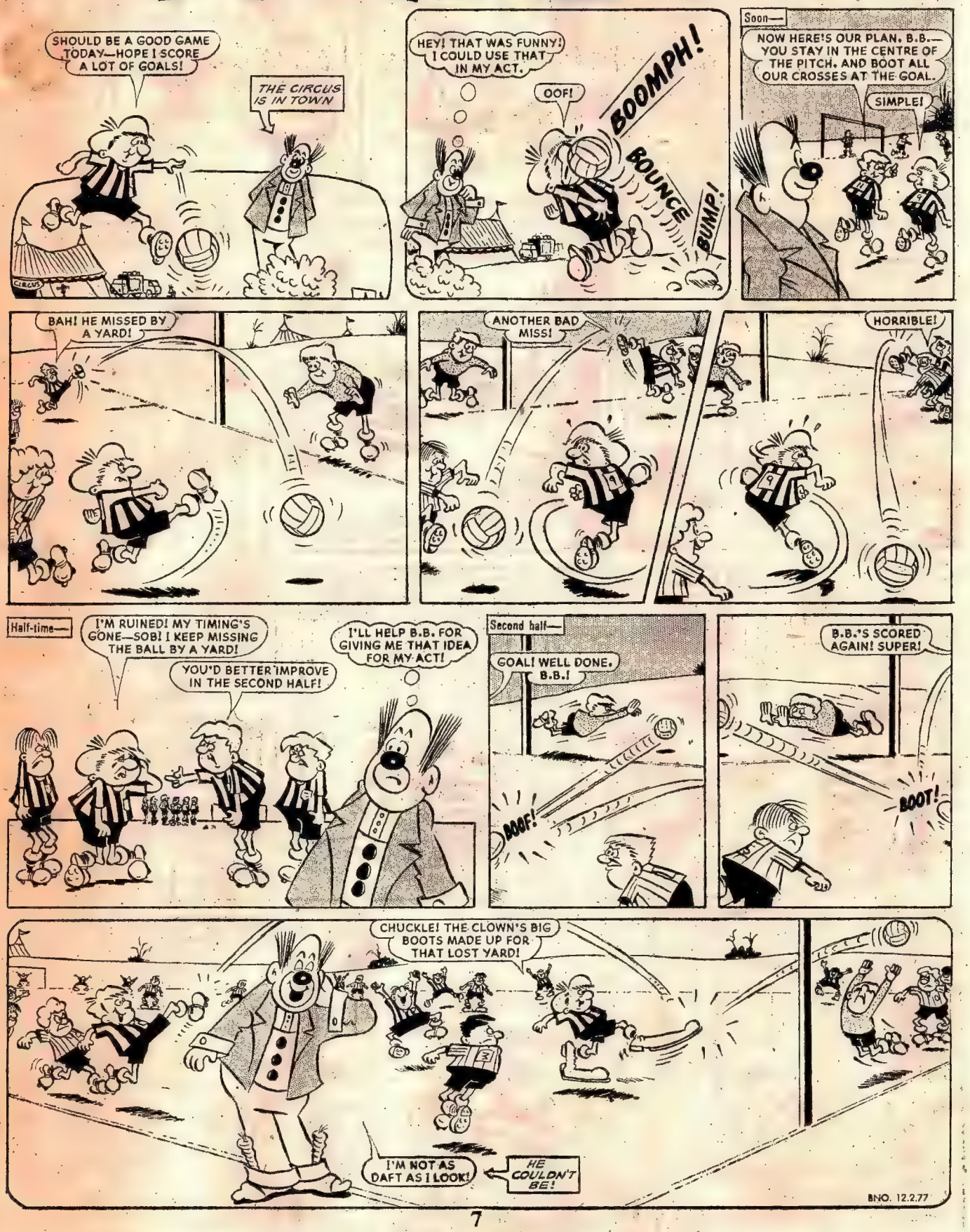

...AAH—OOW!
!?
CRUNK!

WHY YOU...
IT'S NOT MY BALL—IT'S HIS!
BNO. 5.2.77


SO!

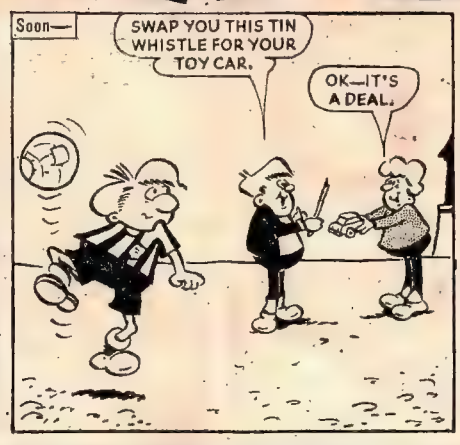

BIFF!
BASH!
I'VE FOUND A MATCH TO WATCH AT LAST—A BOXING MATCH!

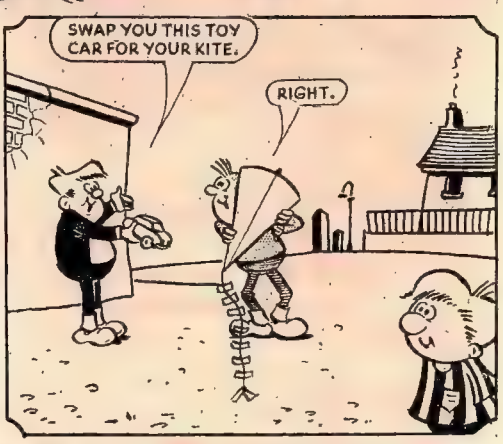
# BALL BOY

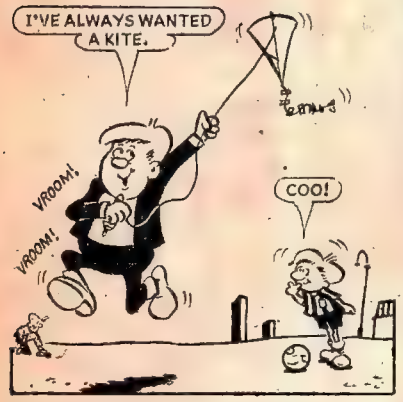

SHOULD BE A GOOD GAME TODAY—HOPE I SCORE A LOT OF GOALS!
THE CIRCUS IS IN TOWN
HEY! THAT WAS FUNNY! I COULD USE THAT IN MY ACT.
OOF!
BOOMPH!
BOUNCE
BUMP!
Soon—
NOW HERE'S OUR PLAN, B.B.—YOU STAY IN THE CENTRE OF THE PITCH, AND BOOT ALL OUR CROSSES AT THE GOAL.
SIMPLE!
BAH! HE MISSED BY A YARD!
ANOTHER BAD MISS!
HORRIBLE!
Half-time—
I'M RUINED! MY TIMING'S GONE—SOB! I KEEP MISSING THE BALL BY A YARD!
YOU'D BETTER IMPROVE IN THE SECOND HALF!
I'LL HELP B.B. FOR GIVING ME THAT IDEA FOR MY ACT!
Second half—
GOAL! WELL DONE, B.B.!
BOOF!
B.B.'S SCORED AGAIN! SUPER!
BOOT!
CHUCKLE! THE CLOWN'S BIG BOOTS MADE UP FOR THAT LOST YARD!
I'M NOT AS DAFT AS I LOOK!
HE COULDN'T BE!
BNO. 12.2.77

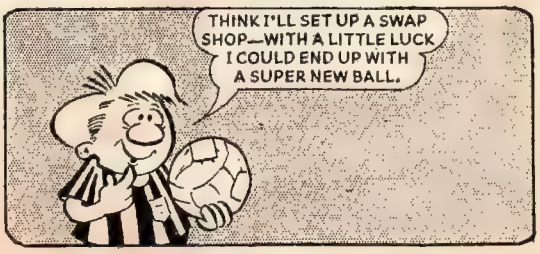
# BALL BOY

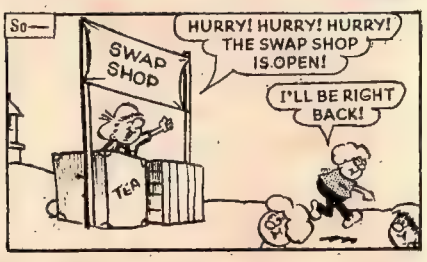
SIGH! WISH I HAD CASH TO BUY A NEW BALL. THAT ONE'S HARDLY GOT A GAME LEFT IN IT.

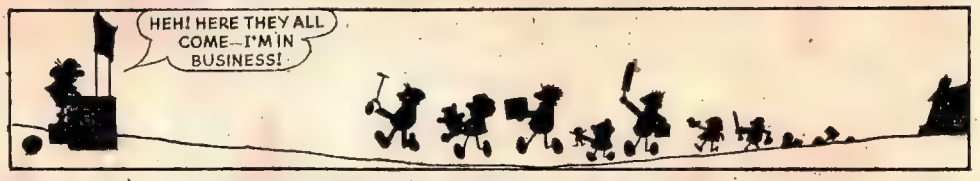

Soon—
SWAP YOU THIS TIN WHISTLE FOR YOUR TOY CAR.
OK—IT'S A DEAL.

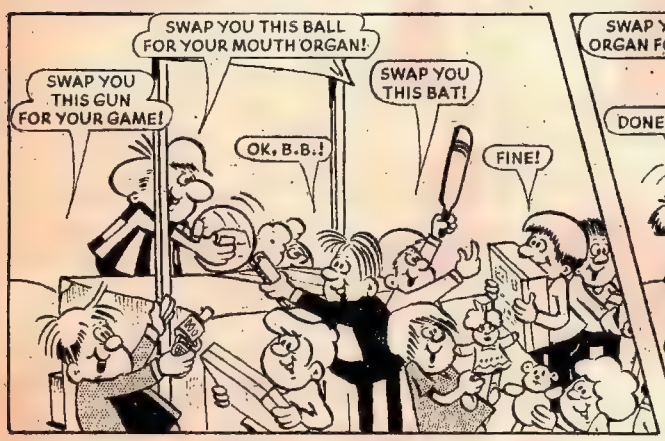

SWAP YOU THIS TOY CAR FOR YOUR KITE.
RIGHT.

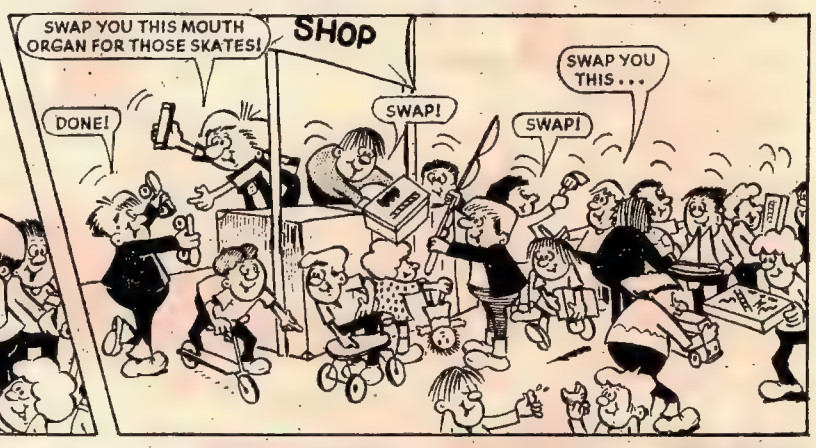

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A KITE.
VROOM!
VROOM!
COO!

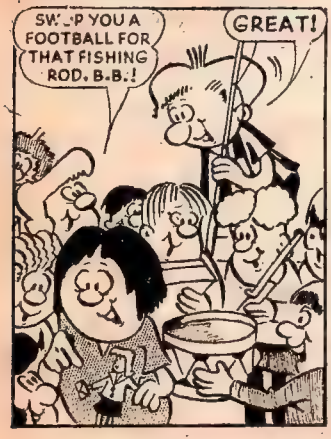

THINK I'LL SET UP A SWAP SHOP—WITH A LITTLE LUCK I COULD END UP WITH A SUPER NEW BALL.

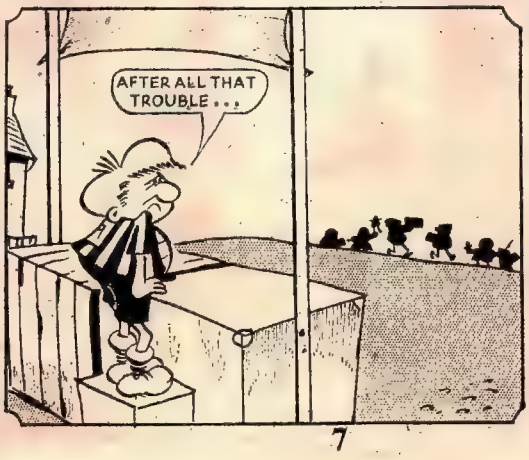

So—
SWAP SHOP
TEA
HURRY! HURRY! HURRY! THE SWAP SHOP IS OPEN!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!


HEH! HERE THEY ALL COME—I'M IN BUSINESS!


SWAP YOU THIS BALL FOR YOUR MOUTH ORGAN!
SWAP YOU THIS GUN FOR YOUR GAME!
SWAP YOU THIS BAT!
OK, B.B.!
FINE!


SWAP YOU THIS MOUTH ORGAN FOR THOSE SKATES!
SHOP
DONE!
SWAP!
SWAP!
SWAP YOU THIS . . .


SWAP YOU A FOOTBALL FOR THAT FISHING ROD, B.B.!
GREAT!


AFTER ALL THAT TROUBLE . . .

SHOP
. . . I GOT MY OLD BALL BACK! HUH!
TEA
BNO. 19.2.77

# BALL BOY

FINISH THE EASY SUM ON THE BLACKBOARD.
OK, SIR!
4—3—3! THAT'S THE FORMATION WE'LL PLAY ON SATURDAY! WE'LL MOVE THE BALL OUT OF DEFENCE . . .
TRUST YOU TO THINK ABOUT FOOTBALL! STAND IN THE CORNER!
CORNER? CORNER? OF COURSE!
SNAP!
AND B.B. TAKES THE CORNER . . .
OH, WHAT'S THE USE? GO RIGHT BACK TO YOUR SEAT!
RIGHT-BACK? YOU WON'T GET PAST ME, SIR!
GASP! HE'S IMPOSSIBLE!
MORE LAUGHTER
I WANT B.B. FOR THE SCHOOL QUIZ TEAM.
HEADMASTER
WHAT GOOD WILL HE BE? HE THINKS NAPOLEON PLAYED IN GOAL FOR FRANCE!
Later—it's the last question and the teams are level on points—
WHO WON . .
INTER-SCHOOLS QUIZ
—THE THIRD ROUND CUP REPLAY IN 1938? WEEDS UNITED WON 3—1! TOO EASY!
G-G-GULP! CORRECT! YOUR SCHOOL'S WON THE TROPHY!
B.B. HOLDS UP THE CUP AT WEMBLEY!
WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? HE'S AT IT AGAIN!
BNO 26 2 77

# BALL BOY

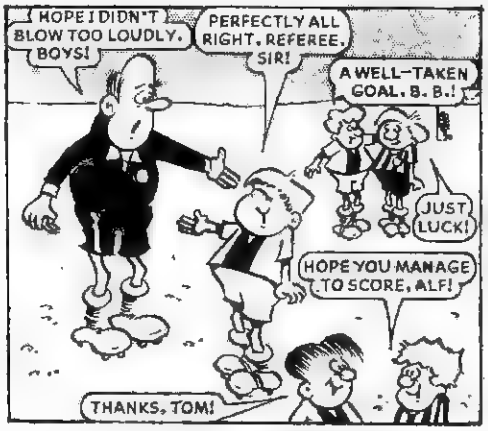
HI, FANS! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR THE START OF TODAY'S GAME.

OH, NICE PASS, JIM!

MUSTN'T HAVE YOU TRIPPING OVER THIS, B. B.!

NICE CONTROL, B. B.!
DON'T KICK THE BALL TOO HARD —YOU MIGHT HURT YOUR FOOT!

SO SORRY TO HAVE SCORED!
MY PLEASURE!
PHEEP!


HOPE I DIDN'T BLOW TOO LOUDLY, BOYS!
PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT, REFEREE, SIR!
A WELL-TAKEN GOAL, B. B.!
JUST LUCK!
HOPE YOU MANAGE TO SCORE, ALF!
THANKS, TOM!

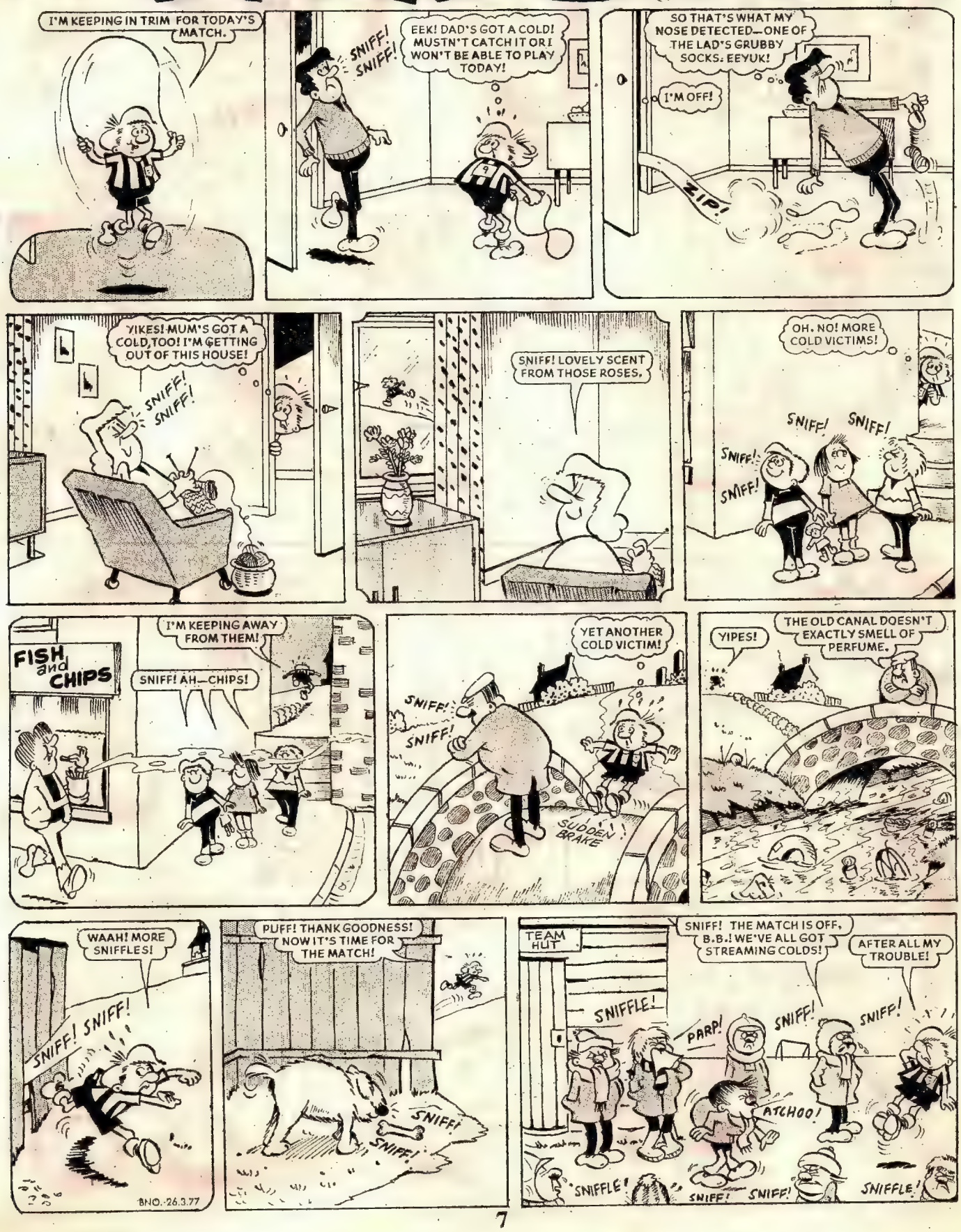
OOPS! SO SORRY, FRED!
NOT AT ALL! MY FAULT, BILL!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A SPORTING GAME. WHAT'S GOING ON, B. B.?
BUMP
WE'RE JUST PAYING ATTENTION TO THAT NOTICE.
GOOD NEIGHBOURS WEEK

WE'VE BEEN FRIENDLY TOO SOON, BOYS!
GASP!
GOOD NEIGHBOURS WEEK
STARTS NEXT WEEK

THE
BMO 12.3.77
YOU'RE A HAM!
NO — HE'S NOT! YOU CAN CURE A HAM!
REMOVE YOUR FOOT FROM UNDER MINE!
WHERE'S THE BALL GONE?
DON'T KNOW! IT WAS ONLY SPOILING THE GAME ANYWAY!
THAT LOT HAVE CHANGED THEIR TUNE, READERS!
COTTON WOOL SO HE WON'T HEAR THE REF'S WHISTLE!

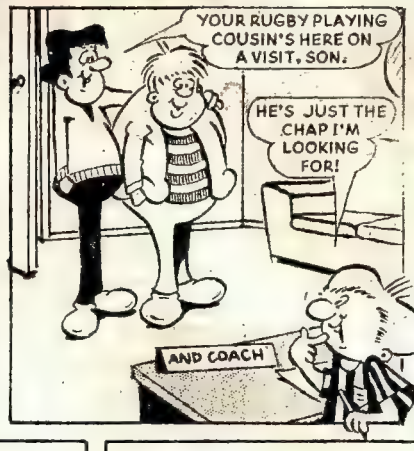
BALL BOY
WE'RE PLAYING GRUB STREET SCHOOL IN THE BOYS' CUP-FINAL TODAY, FANS!
CALM DOWN, SON— YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET EXCITED...
...YOU ALWAYS GET THE HICCUPS, SEE?
HICCUP!
Later, in the dressing-hut—
HM! A FRIGHT CURES THE HICCUPS—COME HERE, B.B.!
HICCUP! HICCUP!
SEE WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST TODAY!
FEARFUL SNARL!
TERRIFYING—BUT EVEN THAT HASN'T CURED MY HICCUPS! HICCUP—HICCUP!
KEEP AWAY FROM MY WHISTLE—DON'T WANT IT GOING "WHEE—HICCUP—EEP"!
HICCUP!
I MUST SCORE!
HUGE HICCUP!
OH, NO!
One minute to go, and no scoring—
HICCUP!
HICCUP!
ONLY ONE THING FOR IT!
HICCUP!
BOUNCE
HICCUP!
BOUNCE
HICCUP!
BOUNCE
HICCUP!
BOUNCE
HICCUP!
GOAL! AND FULL-TIME!
PHEEP!
THIS SHOULD BE CALLED THE "HIC-CUP!" HICCUP! HICCUP!
BNO. 19.3.77

# BALL BOY


I'M KEEPING IN TRIM FOR TODAY'S MATCH.
SNIFF! SNIFF!
EEK! DAD'S GOT A COLD! MUSTN'T CATCH IT OR I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY TODAY!
SO THAT'S WHAT MY NOSE DETECTED—ONE OF THE LAD'S GRUBBY SOCKS. EEYUK!
I'M OFF!
ZIP!
YIKES! MUM'S GOT A COLD, TOO! I'M GETTING OUT OF THIS HOUSE!
SNIFF! SNIFF!
SNIFF! LOVELY SCENT FROM THOSE ROSES.
OH. NO! MORE COLD VICTIMS!
SNIFF! SNIFF! SNIFF! SNIFF!
FISH and CHIPS
I'M KEEPING AWAY FROM THEM!
SNIFF! AH—CHIPS!
YET ANOTHER COLD VICTIM!
SNIFF! SNIFF!
SUDDEN BRAKE
YIPES!
THE OLD CANAL DOESN'T EXACTLY SMELL OF PERFUME.
WAAH! MORE SNIFFLES!
SNIFF! SNIFF!
BNO.-26.3.77
PUFF! THANK GOODNESS! NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE MATCH!
SNIFF! SNIFF!
TEAM HUT
SNIFF! THE MATCH IS OFF, B.B.! WE'VE ALL GOT STREAMING COLDS!
AFTER ALL MY TROUBLE!
SNIFFLE!
PARP!
SNIFF!
SNIFF!
ATCHOO!
SNIFFLE! SNIFF! SNIFF! SNIFFLE!

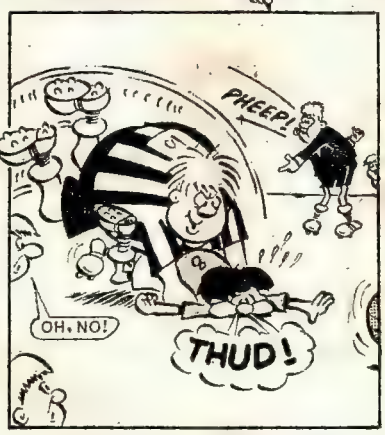
# BALL BOY

I WONDER HOW I CAN STRENGTHEN MY TEAM?
MANAGER


YOUR RUGBY PLAYING COUSIN'S HERE ON A VISIT, SON.
HE'S JUST THE CHAP I'M LOOKING FOR!
AND COACH

ER—I THINK I'D BETTER GET MUM TO DO A FEW ALTERATIONS ON YOUR JERSEY, BIG COUSIN!

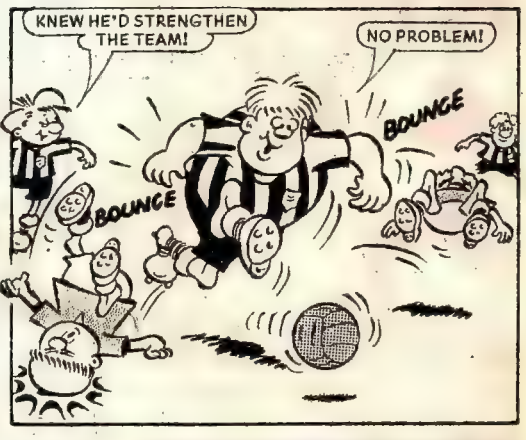
The match starts—
DON'T JUST STAND THERE—TACKLE HIM!
RIGHTO!


PHEEP!
OH, NO!
THUD!

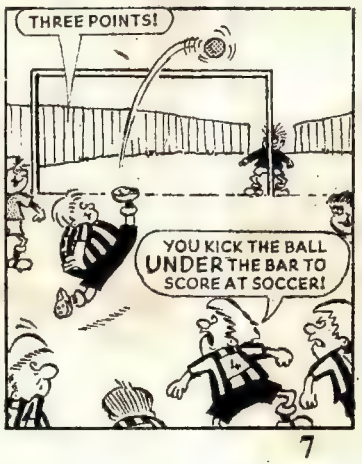
WHAT KIND OF BALL IS THIS, ANYWAY?

IT'S THE WRONG SHAPE!
ANY MORE OF THAT, AND I'LL BOOK YOU FOR A FOUL ON THE BALL!
POUND!

WATCH OUT! YOU'RE GOING TO BE TACKLED!


KNEW HE'D STRENGTHEN THE TEAM!
NO PROBLEM!
BOUNCE
BOUNCE

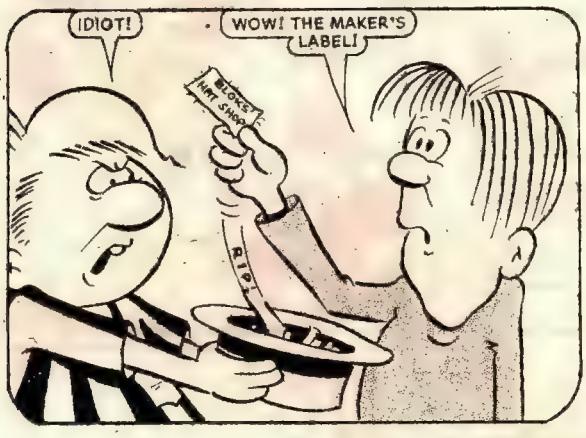
YOU CAN'T MISS—SHOOT!
CRINGE

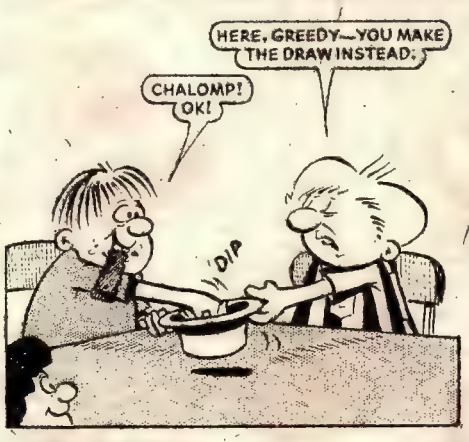

THREE POINTS!
YOU KICK THE BALL UNDER THE BAR TO SCORE AT SOCCER!

RUGBY PLAYERS HAVE THEIR USES AFTER ALL! HOLD THEM BACK TILL I'M MILES AWAY!
SNARL! HOPELESS MANAGER! STRENGTHEN OUR TEAM? YOU'RE WRECKING IT!
BNO. 2.4.77

# BALL BOY

WE ARE GATHERED HERE TO MAKE THE DRAW FOR THE FIRST ROUND OF THE BOYS' CUP.
YOU CAN HAVE THE HONOUR OF DRAWING OUT THE FIRST TEAM, DIMMY.
GASP! I'M HAVING A TOUGH JOB, B.B.!
DON'T BE DAFT— JUST PULL OUT A NAME!


IDIOT!
WOW! THE MAKER'S LABEL!
BLOKES HAT SHOP
RIP!


HERE, GREEDY—YOU MAKE THE DRAW INSTEAD.
CHALOMP! OK!
DIP

OOPS!
TRUST HIM TO HAVE TOFFEE ALL OVER HIS FINGERS!
STICKY STUCK

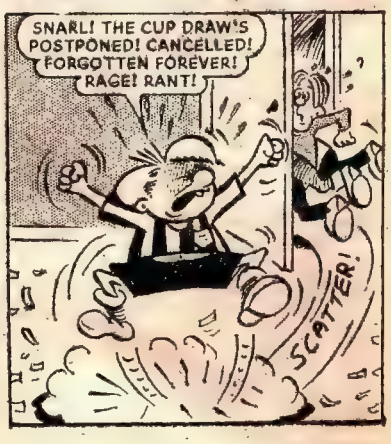
HOPELESS! ALL THE TEAMS CAN'T PLAY EACH OTHER AT ONCE!
HEY! THAT'S MY HEAD YOU'RE DRIBBLING WITH!
THERE'S A RUMOUR GOING AROUND THAT WE'VE SCORED A GOAL!
EXCUSE ME, HAVE YOU SEEN OUR BALL?
WELL, AT LEAST NOBODY CAN SAY THAT WAS AN OFFSIDE GOAL!

IF YOU WANT A THING DONE WELL, DO IT YOURSELF—I'LL MAKE THE DRAW.
DIP!

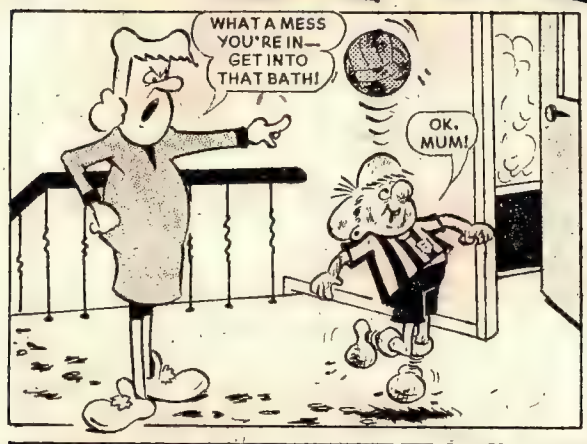
YAHOO! MY TEAM! WONDER IF WE'LL PLAY LEEDS, FORFAR OR EVEN IPSWICH?
CALM DOWN B.B.! THEY FORGOT TO ENTER!

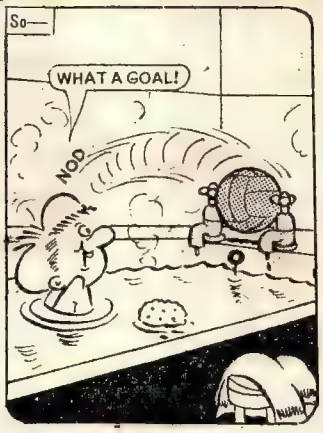
AH, MY HAT—I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR IT.

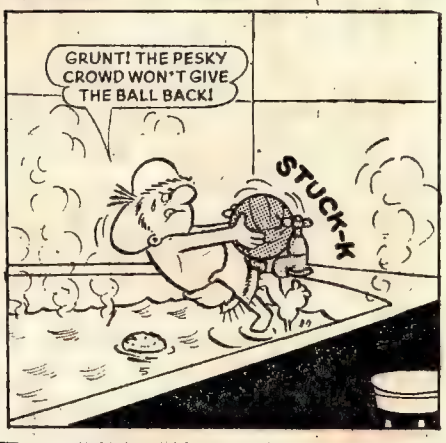
BNO. 9.4.77

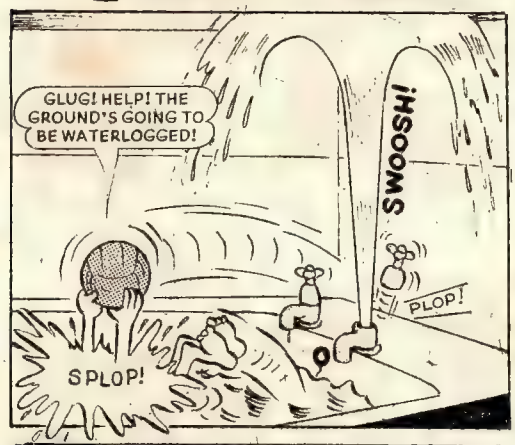

SNARL! THE CUP DRAW'S POSTPONED! CANCELLED! FORGOTTEN FOREVER! RAGE! RANT!
SCATTER!

# BALL BOY

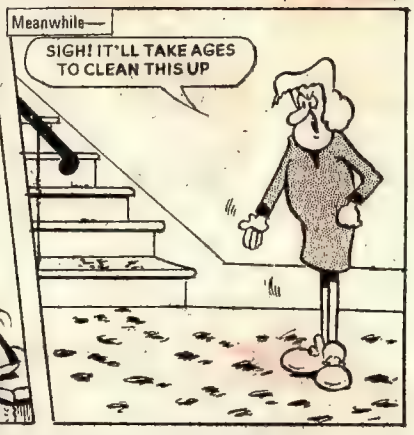

WHAT A MESS YOU'RE IN— GET INTO THAT BATH!
OK. MUM!

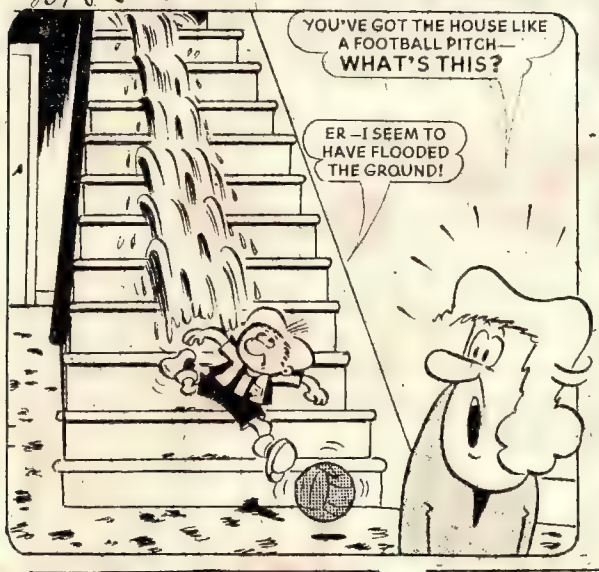

So—
WHAT A GOAL!
NOD

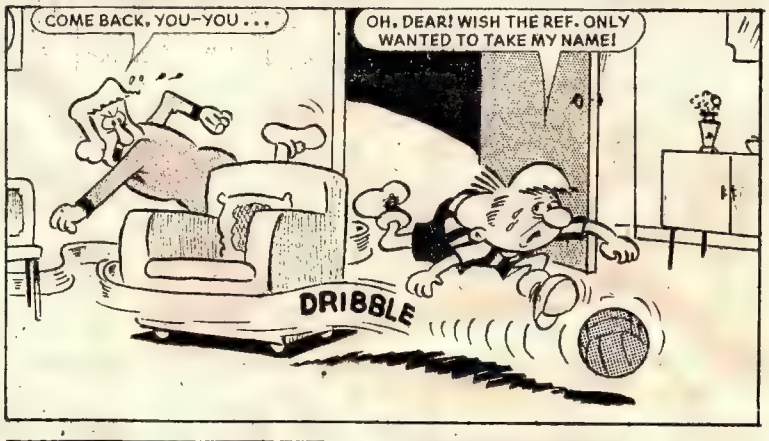

GRUNT! THE PESKY CROWD WON'T GIVE THE BALL BACK!
STUCK-K


GLUG! HELP! THE GROUND'S GOING TO BE WATERLOGGED!
SWOOSH!
PLOP!
SPLOP!

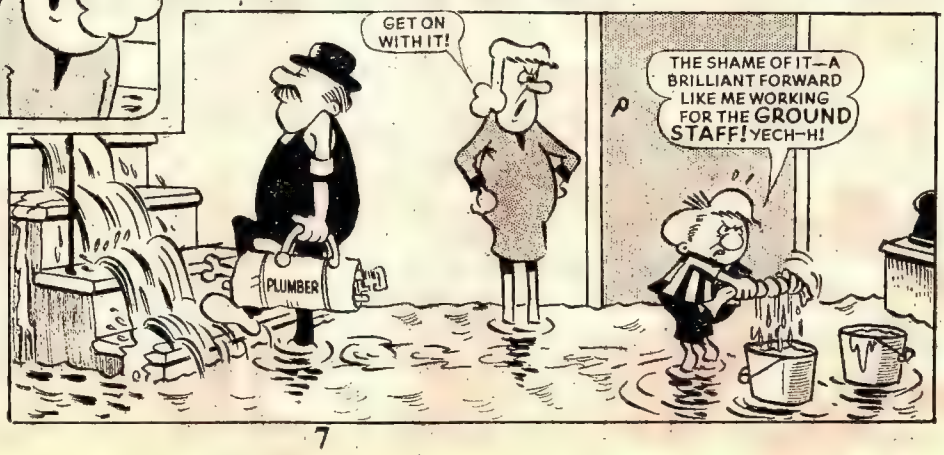
CRUMBS! PLAY'S ABANDONED— BACK TO THE CHANGING ROOM AND OUT OF THE HOUSE!


Meanwhile—
SIGH! IT'LL TAKE AGES TO CLEAN THIS UP


YOU'VE GOT THE HOUSE LIKE A FOOTBALL PITCH— WHAT'S THIS?
ER—I SEEM TO HAVE FLOODED THE GROUND!


COME BACK, YOU—YOU . . .
OH, DEAR! WISH THE REF. ONLY WANTED TO TAKE MY NAME!
DRIBBLE

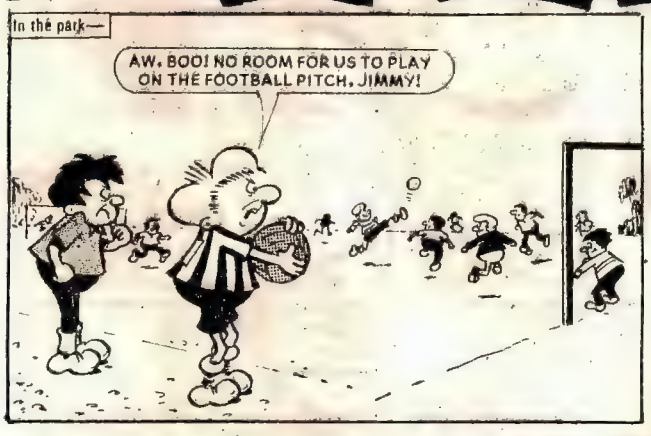
Later—
SIGH! I'BE BEEN SUSPENDED FROM PLAYING, AND WORSE—I'VE BEEN DEMOTED!
8NO. 16.4.77

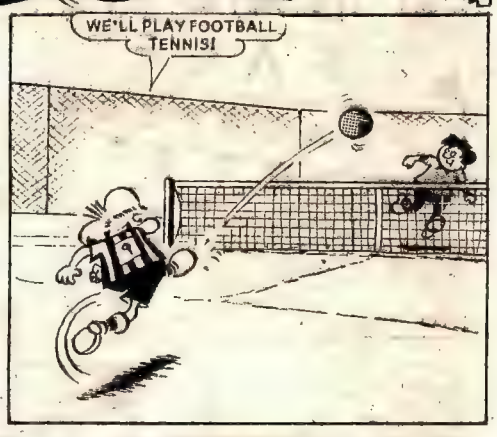

GET ON WITH IT!
PLUMBER
THE SHAME OF IT—A BRILLIANT FORWARD LIKE ME WORKING FOR THE GROUND STAFF! YECH—H!

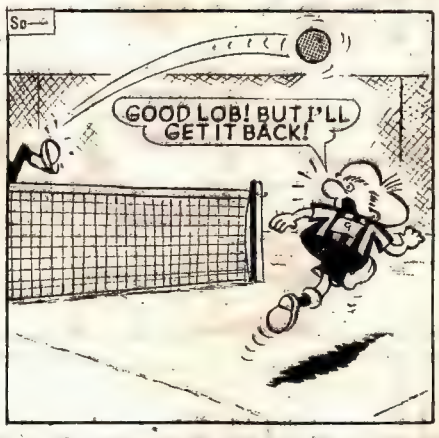
# BALL BOY

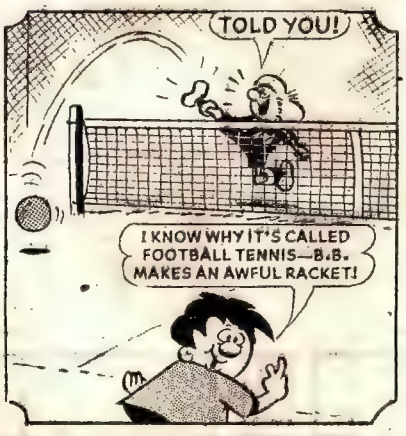
WE'RE A PLAYER SHORT!
THERE'S BALL BOY— HE CAN PLAY FOR US!
ERK!
YIPES! NO! NOT ME!
HEY, B.B.!
READER'S VOICE
COO! NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE BALL BOY REFUSING A GAME!
BUS
DOZE
WHERE'D BALL BOY GO?
BUS
DOZE
GOOD! HE'S GONE!
TUM—TE—TE . . .
HEY! B.B.!
RIDING STABLES
YIPES! IT'S HIM AGAIN!
WAIT, B. B.!
NO TRACE OF HIM!
RIDING STABLES
YEE—AH—OH!
OOOPS! S—SORRY!
AH! THERE HE IS!
JAB
COME ON, B.B.—YOU'RE PLAYING FORWARD FOR US.
OH, NO! HELP! HELP!
READER'S VOICE
I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, BALL BOY—I THOUGHT YOU LOVED FOOTBALL?
YES, I DO— BUT NOT RUGBY FOOTBALL!
BNO. 23.4.77

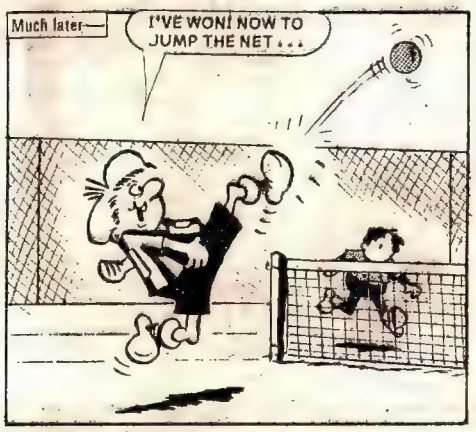
# BALL BOY

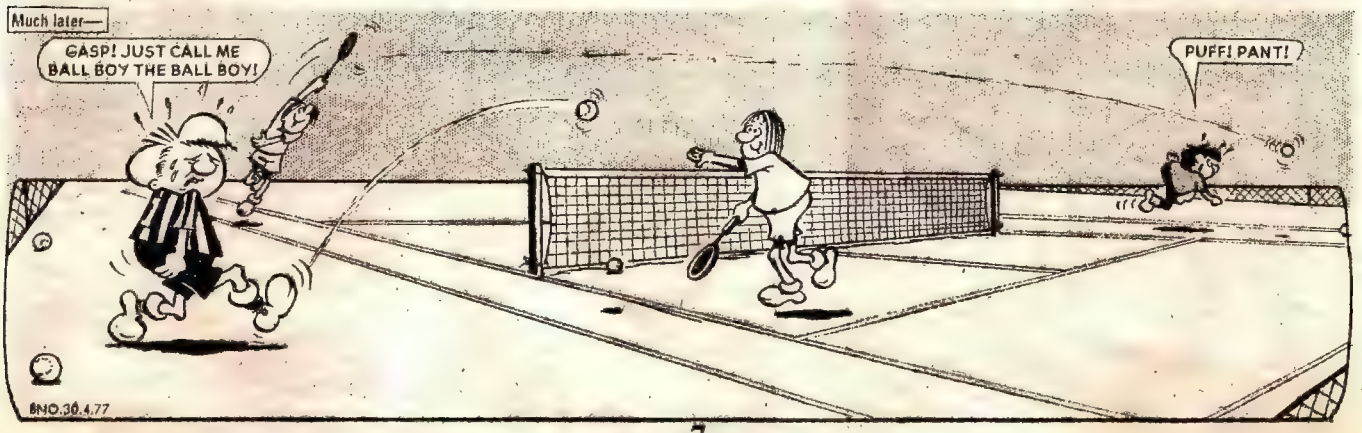






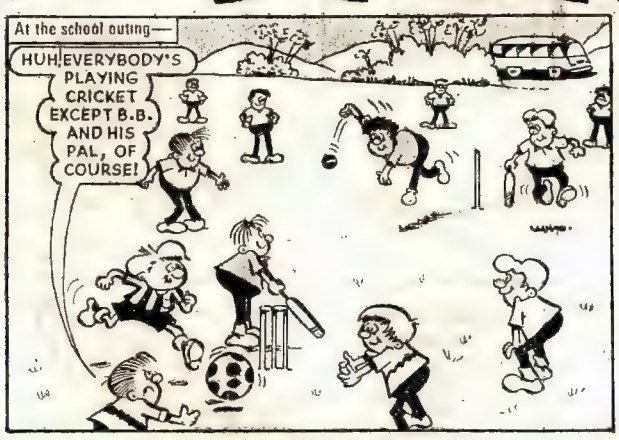






BNO.30.4.77

# BALL BOY


At the school outing—
HUH! EVERYBODY'S PLAYING CRICKET EXCEPT B.B. AND HIS PAL, OF COURSE!

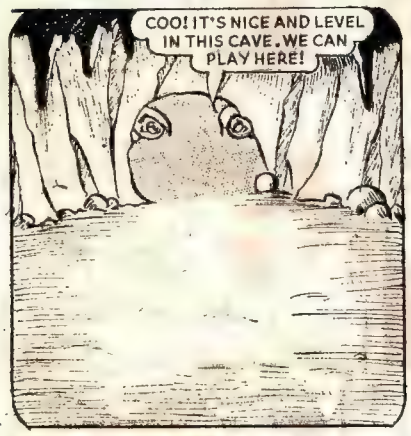
CLUMP!
OUCH!

Soon—

TRIP
OOOF!
CLUMP!

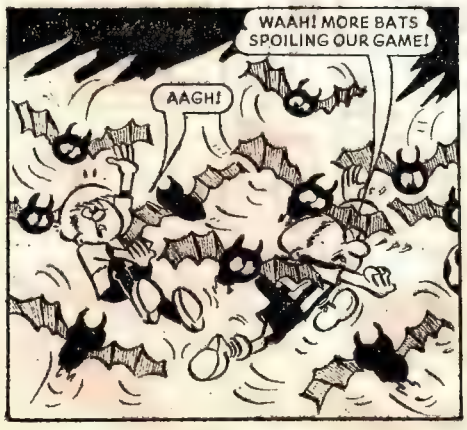
LET'S LOOK FOR ANOTHER PLACE TO PLAY, AWAY FROM THOSE BATS.

But—
BAH! THIS GROUND'S NOT FLAT ENOUGH TO PLAY ON.


COO! IT'S NICE AND LEVEL IN THIS CAVE. WE CAN PLAY HERE!

GOAL! NO BATS TO WORRY ABOUT, EITHER!

But—
ALL IN FAVOUR OF GETTING RID OF THESE PESTS?
THUD!
AYE!
AYE!
AYE! AYE!
AYE!
GOAL!
SHOOT!
FOUL!
PASS!


WAAH! MORE BATS SPOILING OUR GAME!
AAGH!

WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR IT . . .

. . . IF YOU CAN'T BEAT THEM, JOIN THEM—SORT OF!
THUMP!
BNO. 7.5.77

# BALL BOY

HEH! A KIT IN MY KIT! IT'S PUSSKAS, MY PET CAT.
PURRYAOW!

HEY! YOU'VE GOT OUR TEAM'S COLOURS—YOU CAN BE OUR MOSCAT—I MEAN, MASCOT!
PURRYAOW!

MY LEGS ARE A BIT STIFF TODAY. I MUST BE GETTING OLD!
SNIFF! SNIFF!

NOT THAT OLD!

SOME MASCOT—MORE INTERESTED IN THAT DUSTBIN!
THROW-W
PHEEP!

OH, GREAT PASS! NOW TO GO OFF ON ONE OF MY WONDERFUL RUNS . . .
SKILFUL TRAPPING

NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!
TOSS-S

EXCEPT A SMELLY OLD KIPPER!
SPLAT!
A BIT STRONG FOR MY TASTE!

RAGE! FUME! I COULD'VE SCORED THERE, YOU PESKY CAT!
PHOO!
STRONG PONG
GASP!

I'VE SUDDENLY DEVELOPED AN APPETITE FOR A FISH SUPPER.
BUT WHAT'LL WE DO FOR A GOALKEEPER?

PHEW!
EEYUK!
PONG
NASTY NIFF
HEY! I KNOW . . .

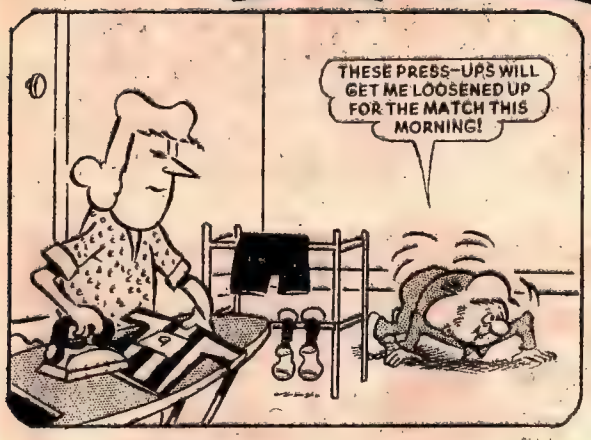
. . . CHUCKLE! THEY'LL NEVER SCORE, THANKS TO OUR GOAL-KIPPER!
KEEPING THEIR DISTANCE
AWFUL ODOUR
PONG

BNO.14.5.77

# BALL BOY

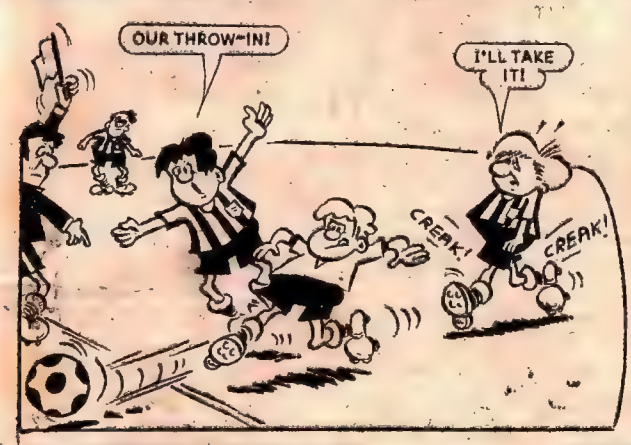
WOW! THESE FOOTBALL JERSEYS ARE GREAT! WISH WE COULD GET NEW STRIPS FOR TODAY'S MATCH.
SOCCER WEAR
NO CHANCE OF THAT. B.B.—THEY COST £100 FOR A FULL SET.
SIGH! YOU'D HAVE TO TRANSFER ME TO GET THAT KIND OF MONEY!
ON THE TRANSFER MARKET YOU'D ONLY BE WORTH A COLLAR ON A JERSEY!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA—I'LL HAVE A NEW STRIP FOR TODAY'S MATCH!
So—
MUDCHESTER UTD. F.C.
KICK! KICK!
I MIGHT HAVE SOME LUCK HERE.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KNOCK ON DOORS, NOT KICK THEM!
SORRY! DO YOU HAVE ANY OLD STRIPS YOU DON'T NEED?
YES, BUT THEY MIGHT BE A BIT TOO BIG! HEH!
HUH! I'LL COME BACK IN TEN YEARS' TIME!
Then—
NOBODY WILL BUY THIS OLD MATERIAL.
MAIN ENTRANCE
I'LL TAKE IT!
MISS THIMBLE, COULD YOUR GIRLS DO A JOB FOR ME?
SEWING CLASS
Later—
I'VE GOT THE NEW JERSEYS, BOYS—HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO LOOK AT THEM YET.
LET'S GET THEM ON—IT'S ALMOST KICK-OFF TIME.
But—
YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN TIME TO LOOK AT THEM!
NO WONDER THAT SHOP COULDN'T SELL THIS AWFUL MATERIAL!
AREN'T THEY BEAUTIFUL?
FETCH A WATERING CAN—THEIR JERSEYS NEED A DRINK!
HA! HA!
PHOO WOO
Later—
WE WON 5—0! THE OTHER TEAM COULDN'T PLAY FOR LAUGHING!
BNO. 21.5.77

# BALL BOY


THESE PRESS-UPS WILL GET ME LOOSENED UP FOR THE MATCH THIS MORNING!

COO! SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THOSE EXERCISES—I'VE GONE A BIT STIFF!
CREAK!
CREAK!

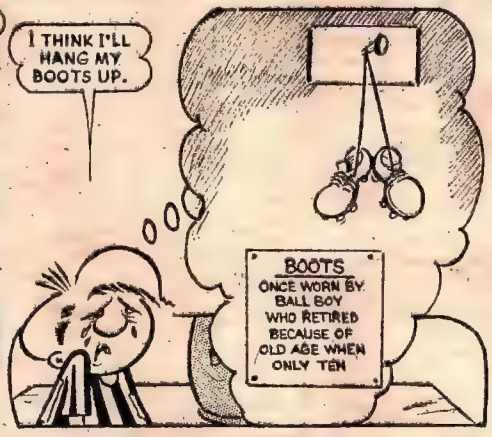
At the match—
BAH! WAKEN UP, CREAKY!
OOH! I'M GETTING STIFFER!
CREAK!
CREAK!

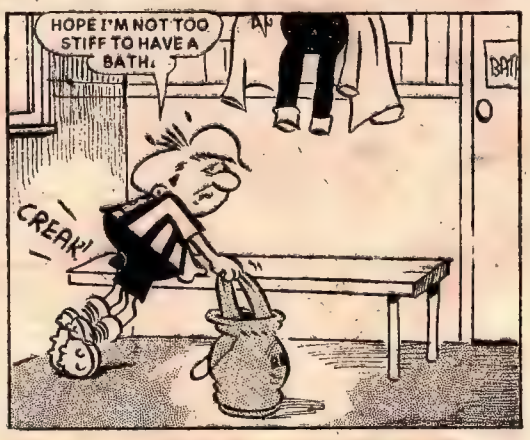

OUR THROW-IN!
I'LL TAKE IT!
CREAK!
CREAK!

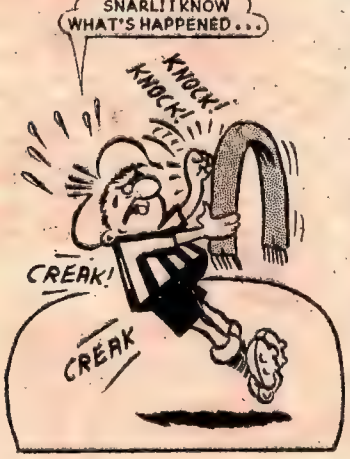
COO! HE'S SO STIFF HE CAN'T EVEN BEND TO PICK UP THE BALL!
CREAK!

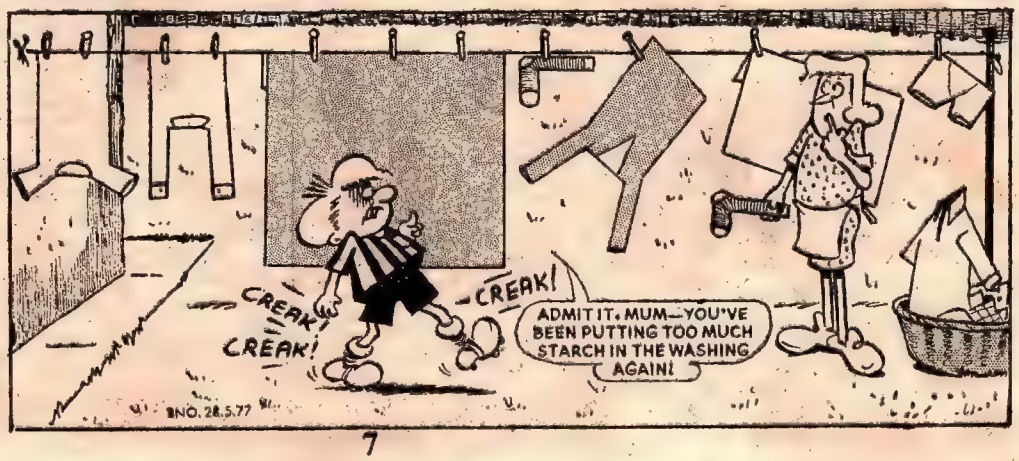
HUH! MY GRANDAD'S NOT AS STIFF AS YOU, B.B!

SIGH! MY FOOTBALL CAREER'S OVER! IMAGINE RETIRING BEFORE YOU LEAVE PRIMARY SCHOOL!
CREAK!
B.B

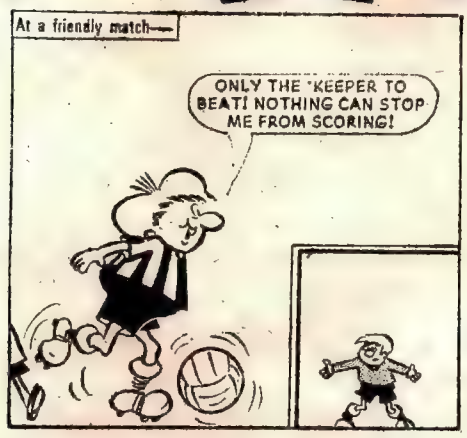

I THINK I'LL HANG MY BOOTS UP.
BOOTS
ONCE WORN BY BALL BOY WHO RETIRED BECAUSE OF OLD AGE WHEN ONLY TEN

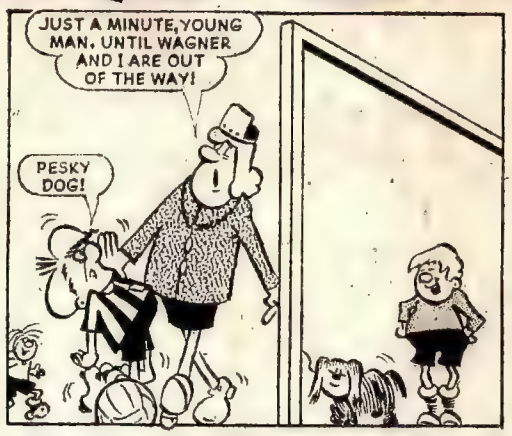

HOPE I'M NOT TOO STIFF TO HAVE A BATH.
CREAK!


SNARL! I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED...
KNOCK! KNOCK!
CREAK!
CREAK


CREAK!
CREAK!
CREAK!
ADMIT IT, MUM—YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING TOO MUCH STARCH IN THE WASHING AGAIN!
BNO. 28.5.77

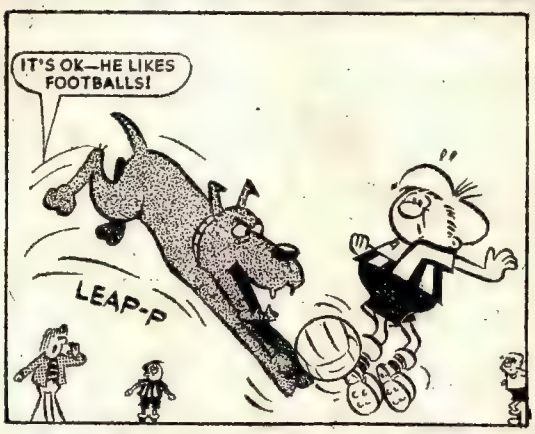
# BALL BOY


At a friendly match—
ONLY THE 'KEEPER TO BEAT! NOTHING CAN STOP ME FROM SCORING!


JUST A MINUTE, YOUNG MAN. UNTIL WAGNER AND I ARE OUT OF THE WAY!
PESKY DOG!

BAH! THAT DOG GAVE THE DEFENCE TIME TO GET BACK!

Soon—
WATCH HOW I TRAP THIS BALL, READERS!


IT'S OK—HE LIKES FOOTBALLS!
LEAP-P

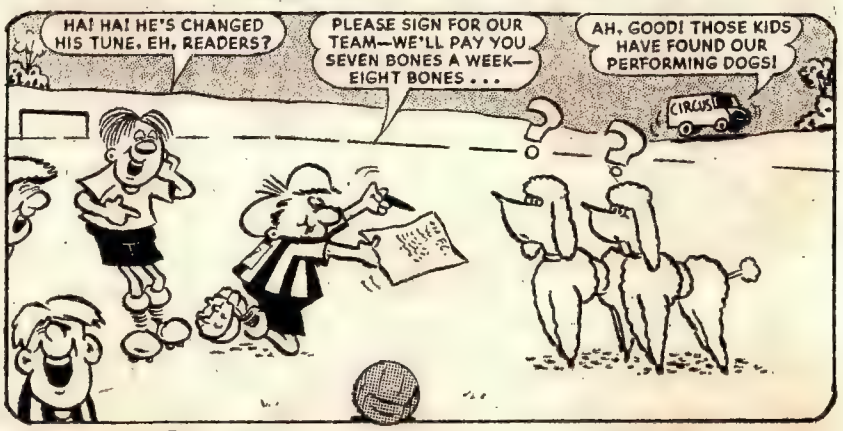
OBVIOUSLY—BUT SHOULDN'T HE EAT DOG FOOD?
HISS!

One new ball later—
DOGS AND FOOTBALL JUST DON'T MIX!

Just then—
HOI! LEAVE OUR BALL ALONE!
HEAD-D

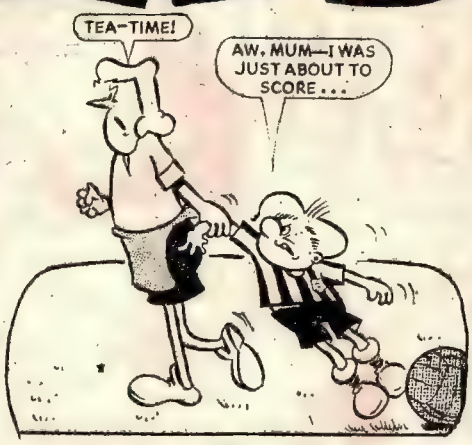
GASP!

OH, NO! LOOKS LIKE B.B.'S GOING TO BE VERY ANGRY!
RUSH-H
BNO. 4.6.77


HA! HA! HE'S CHANGED HIS TUNE, EH, READERS?
PLEASE SIGN FOR OUR TEAM—WE'LL PAY YOU SEVEN BONES A WEEK—EIGHT BONES . . .
AH, GOOD! THOSE KIDS HAVE FOUND OUR PERFORMING DOGS!
CIRCUS!

# BALL BOY

THIS IS HOW I PLAYED IN TODAY'S MATCH!
DRIBBLE!


TEA-TIME!
AW, MUM—I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SCORE...

SIT!
OK—I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT TODAY'S MATCH, MUM...
PLUMP!

IMAGINE I'M THE SALT AND THIS PEA IS THE BALL...

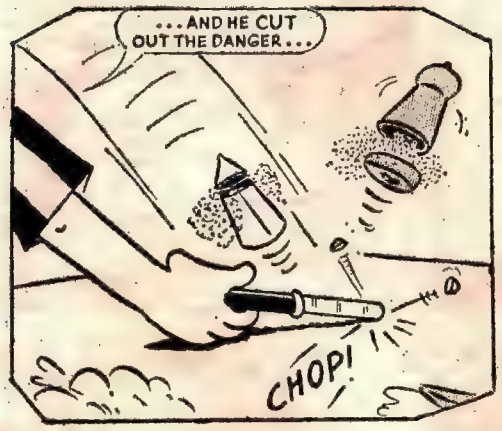
I GOT THE BALL AND RAN DOWN THE WING...

...CUT ACROSS THE PITCH, THROUGH A MUDDY PATCH...

...DOUBLED BACK AND KEPT MY BALANCE ON A SLIPPERY PART OF THE PITCH...

...TRIED A CHIP...
POP!

...BUT THE PEPPER MILL UNITED KEEPER HAD BEAN WATCHING THIS...
BEANS


...AND HE CUT OUT THE DANGER...
CHOP!

...CHOMP! CHOMP! THEN IT WAS FULL TIME!

THAT'S WHAT I HATE ABOUT TEA-TIME— NO FOOTBALL!
SIGH!
BNO. 11.6.77

# BALL BOY

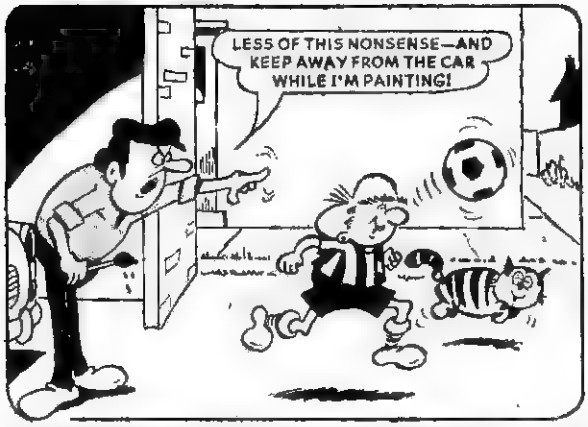
ARE YOU STUDYING THE LEAGUE TABLES, B.B.?
READER'S VOICE

NO, FANS—THE BUS TIME TABLES—TO GET MY TEAM TO FUDGE ST. ON SATURDAY TO PLAY THE LOCAL BOYS.

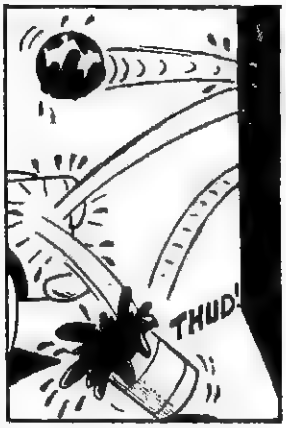
Then—
WANT A GAME, EH, PUSSKAS? COME ON, THEN!
PET CAT

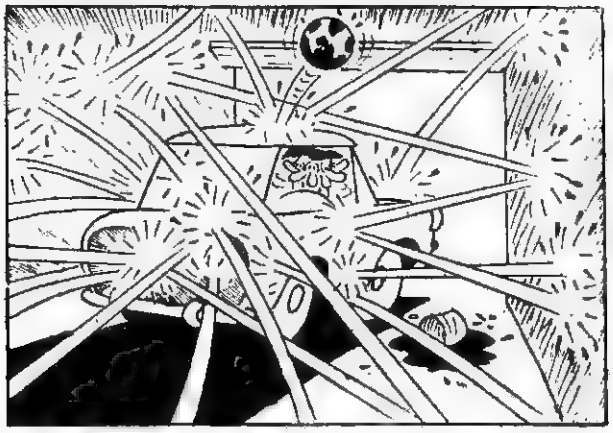
Shortly—
HELLO, DAD! GOING TO PAINT THE CAR IN MY TEAM'S COLOURS?

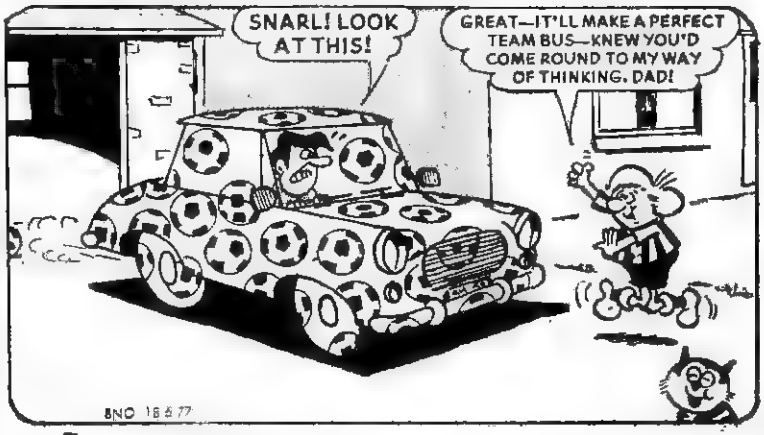
WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO FUDGE STREET... WE ARE THE PEOPLE!


LESS OF THIS NONSENSE—AND KEEP AWAY FROM THE CAR WHILE I'M PAINTING!

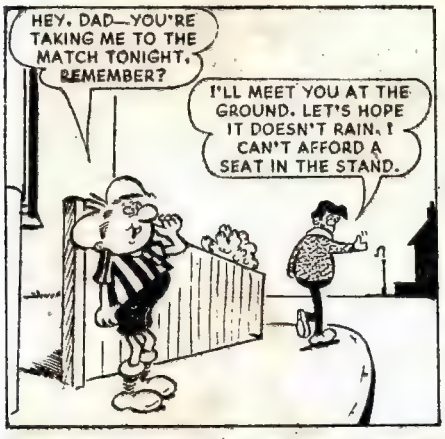
Shortly—
YOU WON'T SAVE THAT, PUSSKAS—IT'S A GOAL!
DUCK
WHUMP!

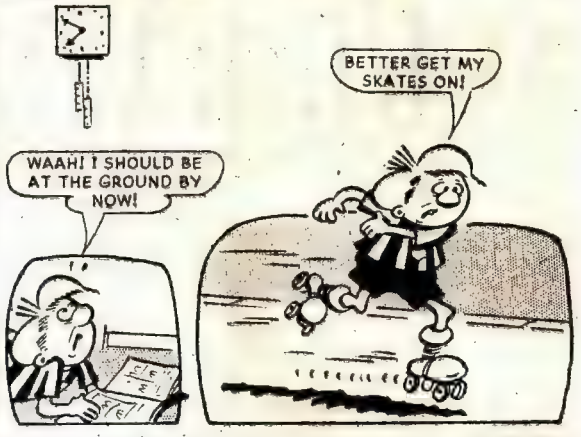

THUD!

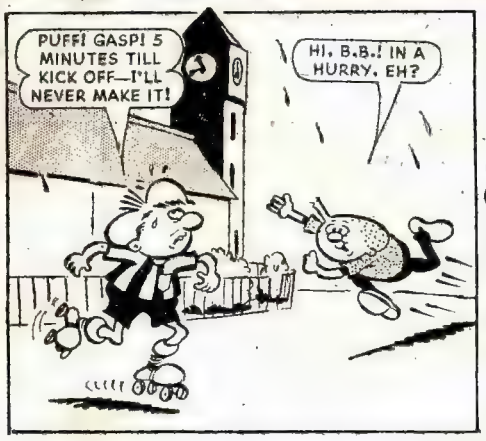


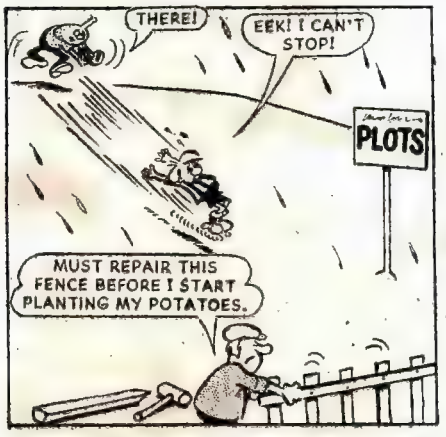

SNARL! LOOK AT THIS!
GREAT—IT'LL MAKE A PERFECT TEAM BUS—KNEW YOU'D COME ROUND TO MY WAY OF THINKING, DAD!
BNO 18.6.77

# BALL BOY

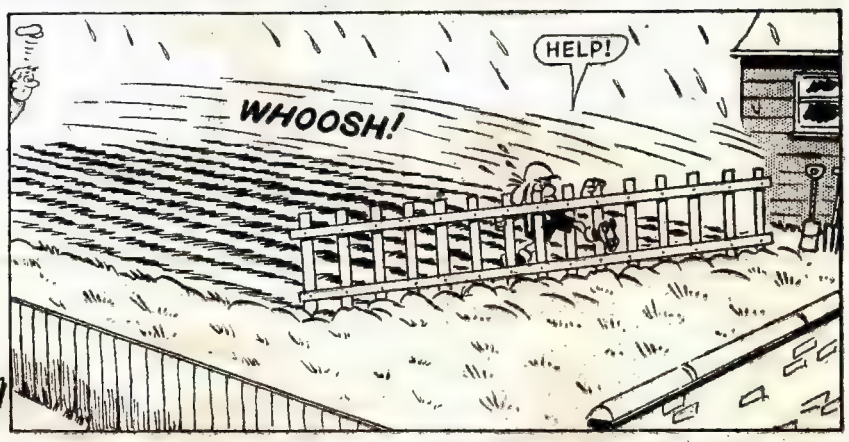




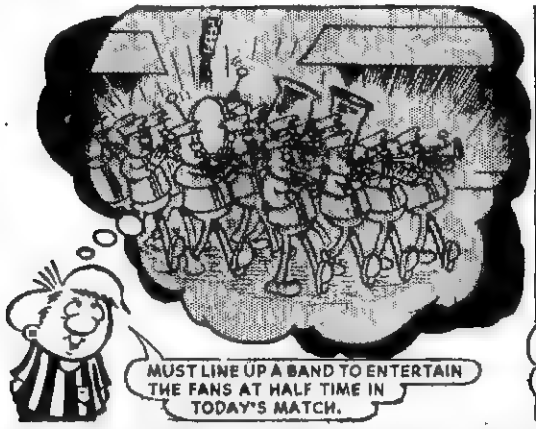





CRASH!

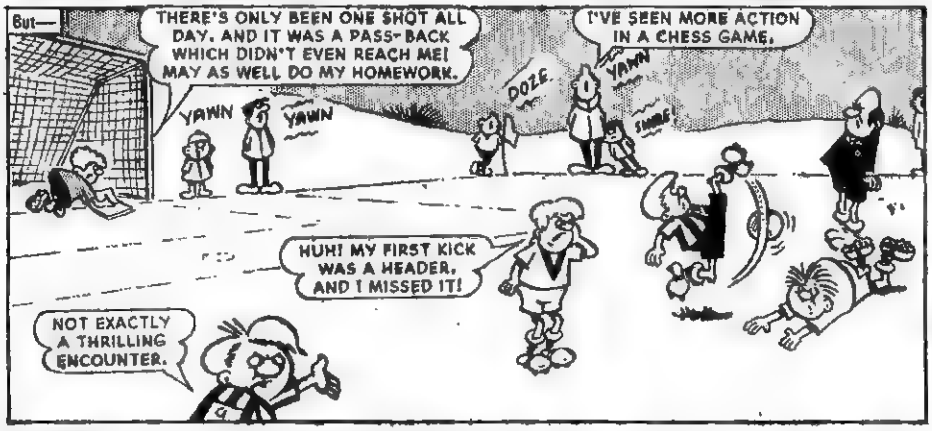


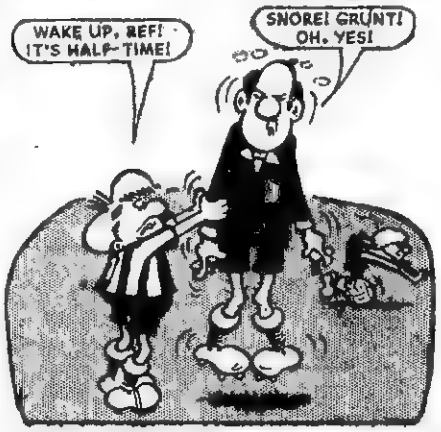
# BALL BOY


MUST LINE UP A BAND TO ENTERTAIN THE FANS AT HALF TIME IN TODAY'S MATCH.

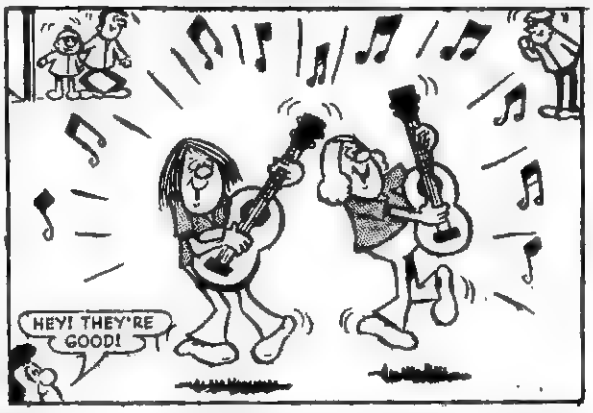
But—
THIS IS THE ONLY BAND I COULD GET— THEY'LL HAVE TO DO.

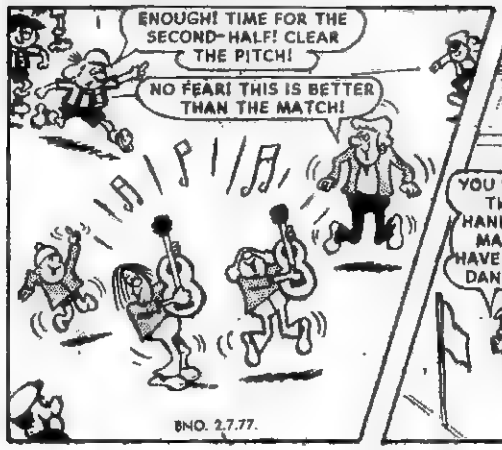
At the kick-off—
HOPE IT'S AN EXCITING GAME.
PHEEP!


But—
THERE'S ONLY BEEN ONE SHOT ALL DAY. AND IT WAS A PASS-BACK WHICH DIDN'T EVEN REACH ME! MAY AS WELL DO MY HOMEWORK.
YAWN
YAWN
DOZE
I'VE SEEN MORE ACTION IN A CHESS GAME.
YAWN
SNORE
HUH! MY FIRST KICK WAS A HEADER, AND I MISSED IT!
NOT EXACTLY A THRILLING ENCOUNTER.


WAKE UP, REF! IT'S HALF-TIME!
SNORE! GRUNT! OH, YES!

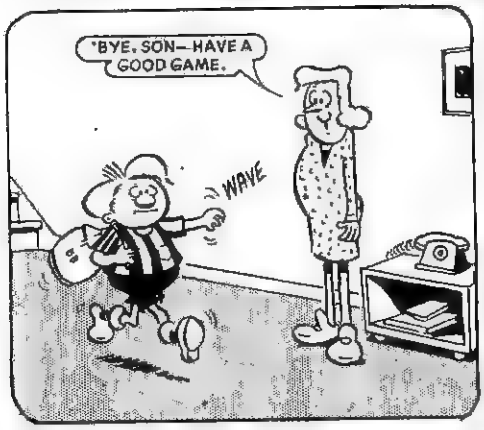
MAYBE THE HALF-TIME ORANGES WILL BE MORE EXCITING.
YAWN
BORED.
DOZE
YAWN
ON WE GO!


HEY! THEY'RE GOOD!

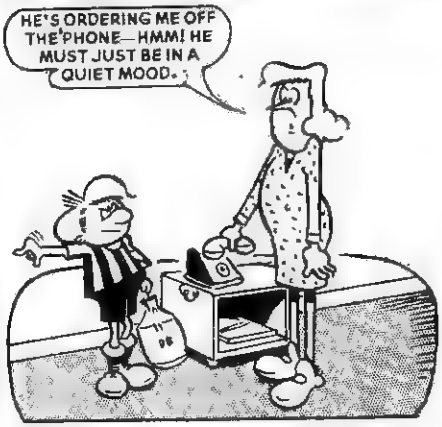

ENOUGH! TIME FOR THE SECOND-HALF! CLEAR THE PITCH!
NO FEAR! THIS IS BETTER THAN THE MATCH!
BNO. 2.7.77.

DOING THE CROSSBAR ROCK! YEH! YEH!
DANCE ON MY TOES AGAIN, AND I'LL BOOK YOU!
YOU WITH THE HANKIE— MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE?
BEST FOOTWORK I'VE SEEN ALL DAY, GRANDAD!
THE MATCH IS A-BAND-ONED!

# BALL BOY


'BYE, SON—HAVE A GOOD GAME.
WAVE

HE HASN'T SAID A WORD ALL DAY. WONDER IF HE'S LOST HIS VOICE? I'LL PHONE THE DOCTOR.


HE'S ORDERING ME OFF THE 'PHONE—HMM! HE MUST JUST BE IN A QUIET MOOD.

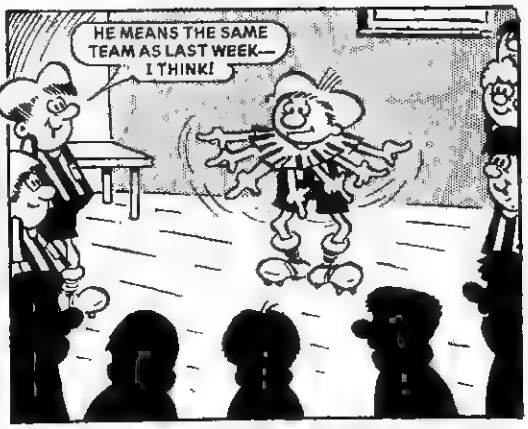
FINE DAY, ISN'T IT, YOUNG MAN?

SUCH A NICE BOY—TOO SHY TO TALK, THOUGH.
NOD NOD

On the bus—
NOW, ARE YOU GOING SWIMMING OR SKATING? . . .

. . . I'VE GOT IT—FOOTBALLING! YOU'LL WANT A SINGLE TO THE SPORTS PARK.
NOD NOD

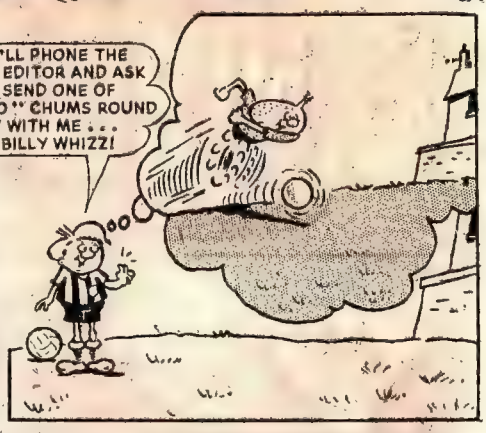
In the dressing room—
WHAT'S TODAY'S TEAM, B.B.?

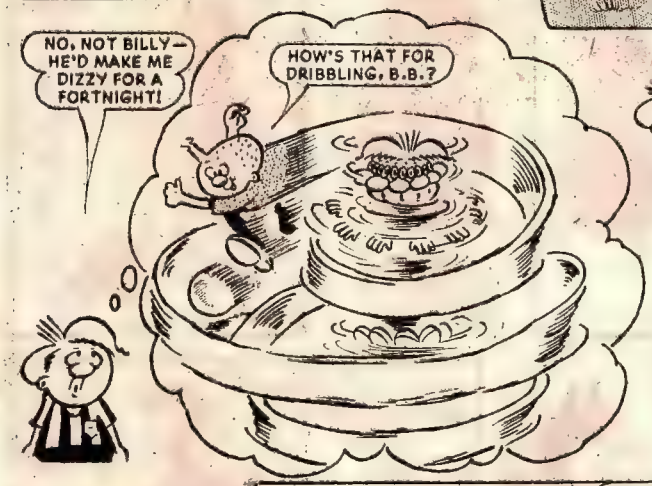

HE MEANS THE SAME TEAM AS LAST WEEK—I THINK!

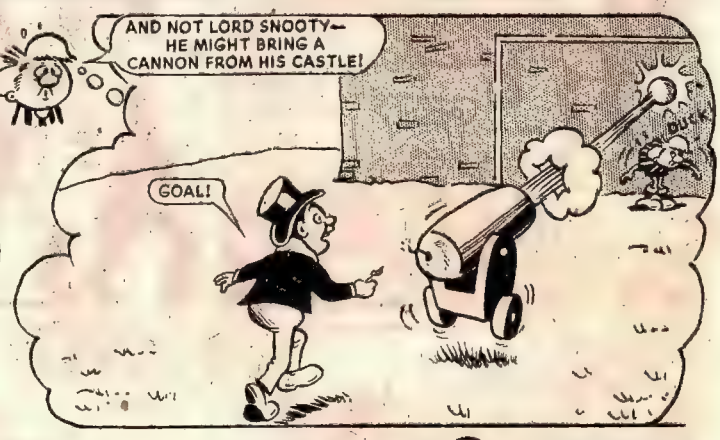
Soon—
WHICH WAY DO YOU WANT TO PLAY FIRST HALF, B.B.?

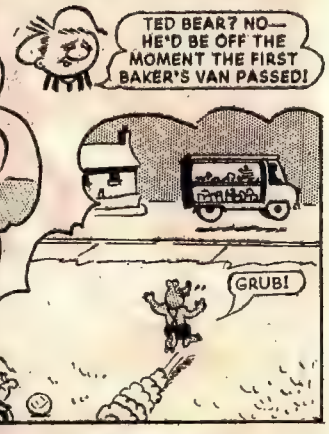
GET A MOVE ON, MY TEAM! LET'S HAVE A GOAL! MUST WIN! SHOOT!
HE'S BEEN SAVING HIS VOICE FOR ALL THIS SHOUTING, READERS!
BNO 9.7.77.

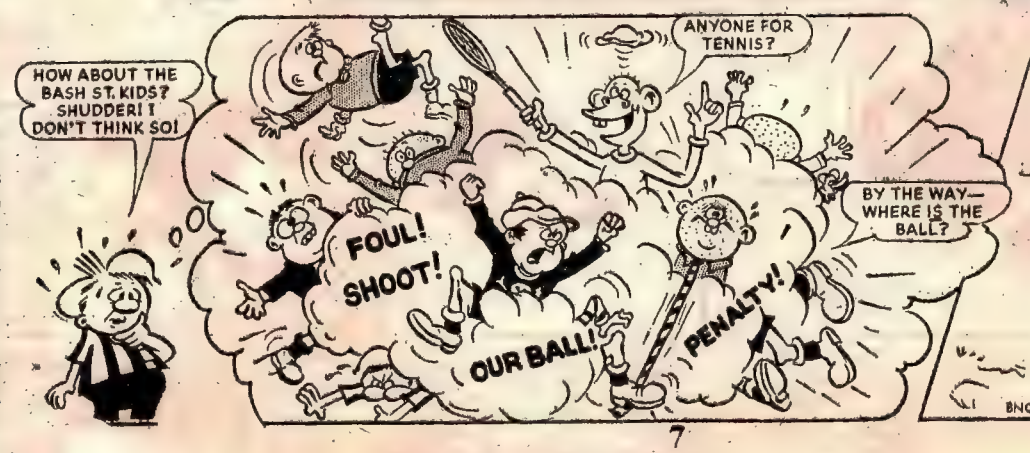
# BALL BOY

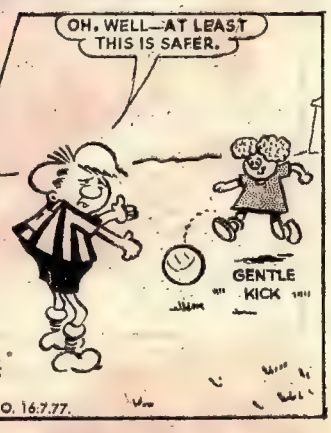




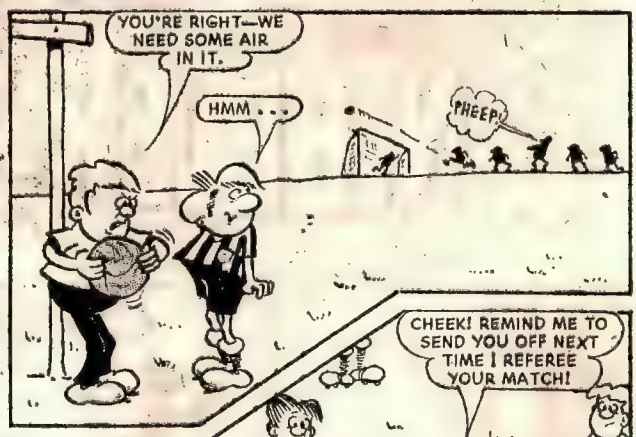




BNO. 16.7.77.

# BALL BOY

Ball Boy's practising—
I'LL NEVER SCORE WITH THAT SOFT BALL— IT'S LIKE KICKING A DUMPLING!
PHUMP!

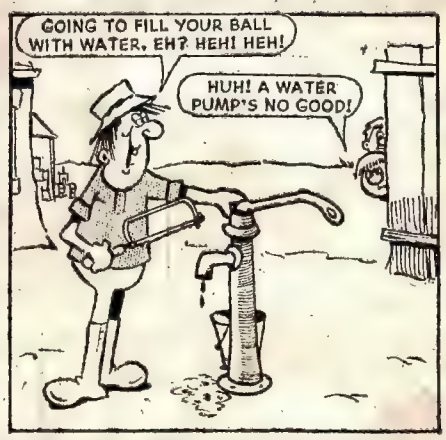

YOU'RE RIGHT—WE NEED SOME AIR IN IT.
HMM . . .
PHEEP!

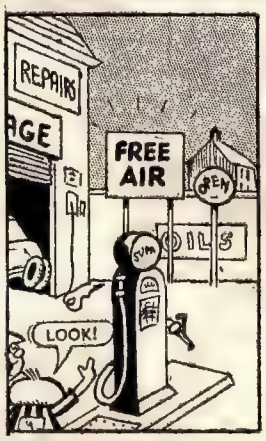
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON OUR PITCH, BOY?

YOU'RE ALWAYS BLOWING YOUR WHISTLE—BLOW IN HERE FOR A CHANGE!

CHEEK! REMIND ME TO SEND YOU OFF NEXT TIME I REFEREE YOUR MATCH!
OO—ER!

Soon—
NO NEED FOR THIS OLD PUMP ANY MORE.
WE'LL TAKE IT!

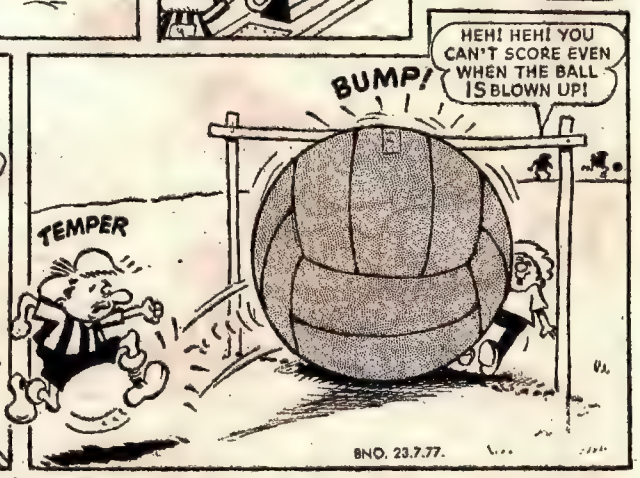

GOING TO FILL YOUR BALL WITH WATER, EH? HEH! HEH!
HUH! A WATER PUMP'S NO GOOD!


REPAIRS
AGE
FREE AIR
OILS
LOOK!

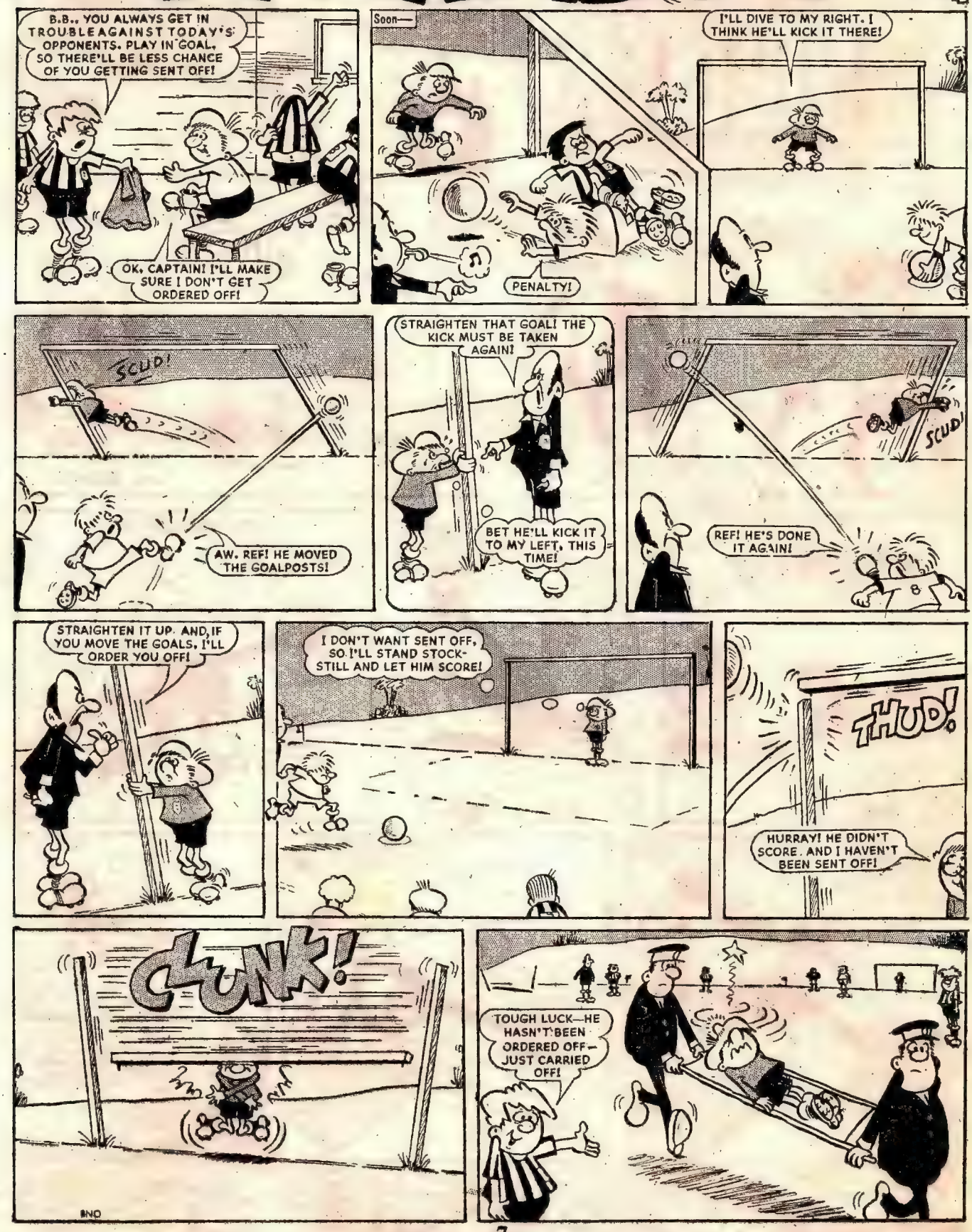
FREE AIR
WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF THIS BEFORE?

ER—HOW DO YOU SWITCH THIS HOSE OFF?
I—I DON'T KNOW!

Much fiddling about later—
THERE—GOT IT!
NOT A SECOND TOO SOON!


HEH! HEH! YOU CAN'T SCORE EVEN WHEN THE BALL IS BLOWN UP!
BUMP!
TEMPER
BNO. 23.7.77.

# BALL BOY


B.B., YOU ALWAYS GET IN TROUBLE AGAINST TODAY'S OPPONENTS. PLAY IN GOAL, SO THERE'LL BE LESS CHANCE OF YOU GETTING SENT OFF!
OK, CAPTAIN! I'LL MAKE SURE I DON'T GET ORDERED OFF!
Soon—
PENALTY!
I'LL DIVE TO MY RIGHT. I THINK HE'LL KICK IT THERE!
SCUD!
AW, REF! HE MOVED THE GOALPOSTS!
STRAIGHTEN THAT GOAL! THE KICK MUST BE TAKEN AGAIN!
BET HE'LL KICK IT TO MY LEFT, THIS TIME!
SCUD!
REF! HE'S DONE IT AGAIN!
STRAIGHTEN IT UP. AND, IF YOU MOVE THE GOALS, I'LL ORDER YOU OFF!
I DON'T WANT SENT OFF, SO I'LL STAND STOCK-STILL AND LET HIM SCORE!
THUD!
HURRAY! HE DIDN'T SCORE. AND I HAVEN'T BEEN SENT OFF!
CLUNK!
BNO
TOUGH LUCK—HE HASN'T BEEN ORDERED OFF—JUST CARRIED OFF!

# BALL BOY

I'LL TAKE THE KICK!
NO I'LL TAKE IT!
NO, ME! I'M TAKING IT!
BAH! THEY'RE ALWAYS STOPPING TO ARGUE!

ARGUE!
I'LL SETTLE IT...
...BY TAKING THE KICK!

I'M GOING TO BE 'KEEPER, NOW!
NO, ME! YOU'RE A TERRIBLE GOALIE!
I'LL BE GOALIE!

Later—
I'M TAKING THIS THROW-IN!
NO, ME!
I'LL TAKE!
ME! ME!
THERE THEY GO:- STOPPING TO ARGUE AGAIN!

IT'S SETTLED— I'LL TAKE IT!

Soon—
STOPPING TO ARGUE AGAIN—SIGH!
I'LL TAKE THIS CORNER!
NO, ME!
ME! ME!
I'LL TAKE IT!

FURIOUS ARGUMENT!

I'LL TAKE IT AGAIN—OOPS! TOO HARD!
WHUMP!

GRR! HE'S BURST OUR BALL!
PSSST!
THE ROTTER!
GRR!
NOW WE WON'T BE ABLE TO FINISH OUR GAME!

I'LL HAVE FIRST PUNCH AT HIM!
NO, ME!
ME! ME!
I WILL!
PHEW! THIS IS ONE TIME I'M GLAD THEY STOPPED TO ARGUE!

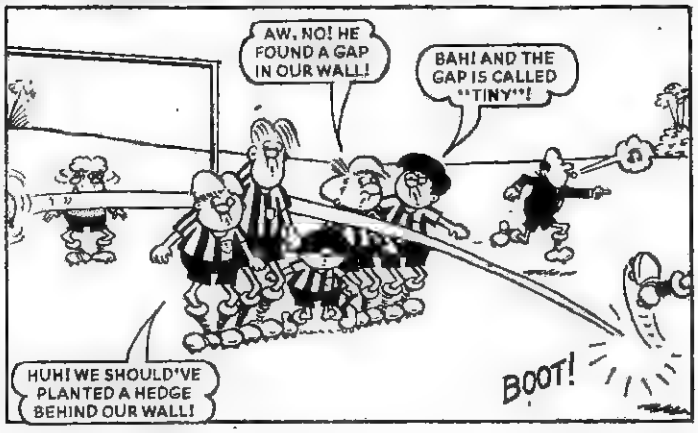
BNO. 6.8.77.

# BALL BOY

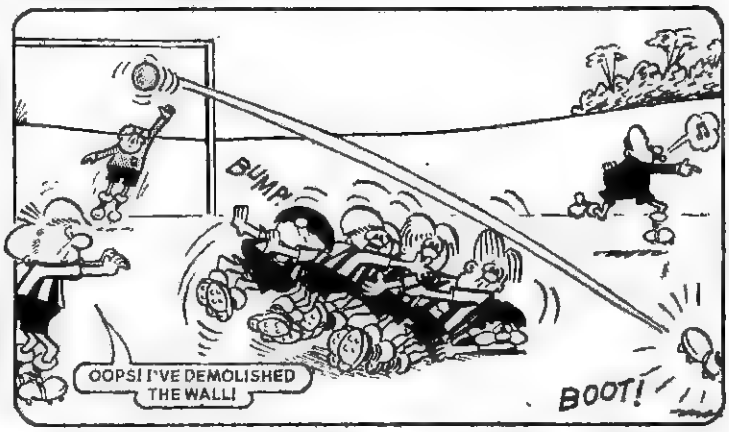
I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY TEAM, READERS—JUST TAKE A LOOK AT THE NEXT FEW PICTURES!
NEW JERSEYS
Y—YOU TACKLE HIM!
N—N—NO! Y—YOU!
I COULD'VE SAVED THAT, BUT I DON'T WANT TO DIRTY MY CLEAN GLOVES!
BOOMPH!
DUCK
GASP! NEARLY SPOILED MY HAIRSTYLE!
GLAD I BROUGHT MUM'S BROLLY! WOULDN'T WANT TO GET MY OUTFIT DIRTY!
SEE WHAT I MEAN, READERS?
Half-time—
CHUCKLE! YOU LOT WOULD BE BETTER OFF IN THE GIRL GUIDES' LEAGUE! HEH! HEH!
THEY'RE RIGHT—YOU'D THINK THEY'D TAKEN SOFTNESS LESSONS FROM WALTER!
THAT'S IT—I'LL 'PHONE DENNIS!
YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME, DENNIS! MY TEAM ARE FAR TOO SOFT!
ALL YOU NEED ARE NEW BADGES FOR YOUR FOOTBALL STRIP, B. B.!
HOW WILL THAT HELP?
B.B.'s team come out for the second half—
HERE COME THOSE SOFTIES—GULP!
I'D BETTER LET HIM SCORE IN CASE HE SETS HIS BADGE ON ME!
CHUCKLE! THESE WERE THE BADGES DENNIS MEANT—THEY'VE CERTAINLY ADDED BITE TO OUR GAME!
LARGE SIZE BADGES
GNASH!
WE'RE WINNING 8—3!
GNASHIRALLY!
GNASH! DO YOU STILL SAY B.B.'S GOAL WAS OFFSIDE?
ER—NO! IT WAS A GREAT GOAL!
IF YOU DIRTY MY NEW OUTFIT, I'LL GNASH YOU ONE!
BNO. 13.8.77.

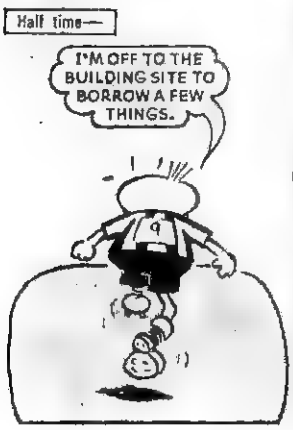
# BALL BOY

Ball Boy's team have given away a free kick—
QUICK—FORM A DEFENSIVE WALL!

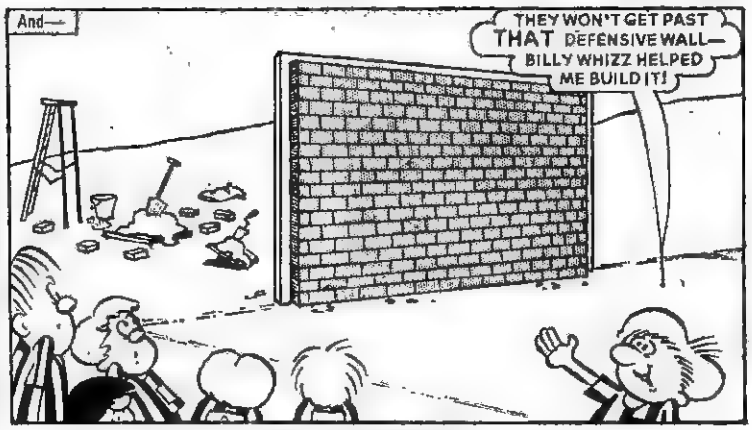

AW, NO! HE FOUND A GAP IN OUR WALL!
BAH! AND THE GAP IS CALLED "TINY"!
HUH! WE SHOULD'VE PLANTED A HEDGE BEHIND OUR WALL!
BOOT!

Another free kick later—
GET CLOSER, TINY—WE'RE HAVING NO GAPS IN OUR WALL THIS TIME!


BUMP!
OOPS! I'VE DEMOLISHED THE WALL!
BOOT!


Half time—
I'M OFF TO THE BUILDING SITE TO BORROW A FEW THINGS.

PUFF! TIME FOR THE SECOND HALF, BOYS! PANT!


And—
THEY WON'T GET PAST THAT DEFENSIVE WALL—BILLY WHIZZ HELPED ME BUILD IT!

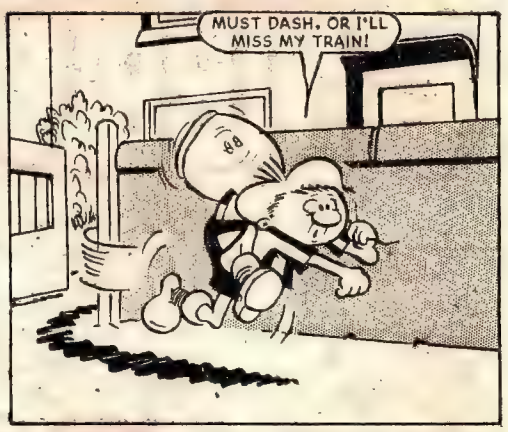
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WRONG...
I KNOW—YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK ME!

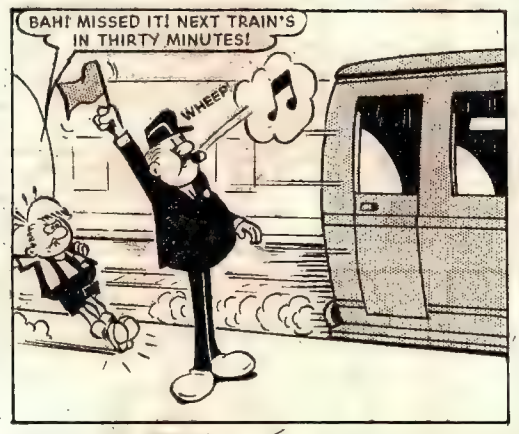
THUD!
NO—THAT'S OVER OUR OPPONENTS' GOAL! YOU FORGOT WE TURN ROUND AT HALF TIME!
HA! HA!
HA. HA!
THIS IS GOING TO BE THE EASIEST GAME I'VE EVER HAD!
BNO. 20.8.77.

# BALL BOY

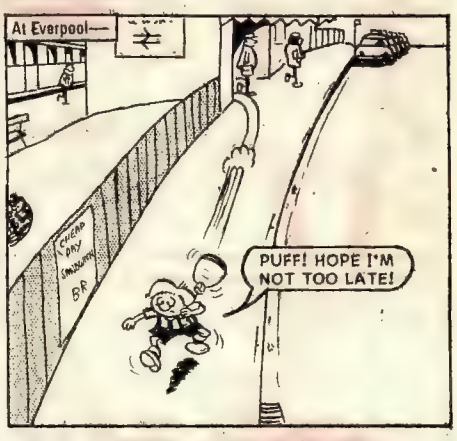
I'M OFF TO CATCH THE TRAIN FOR AN AWAY MATCH AT EVERPOOL, MUM.
MAKE YOURSELF A CUP OF TEA BEFORE YOU GO.

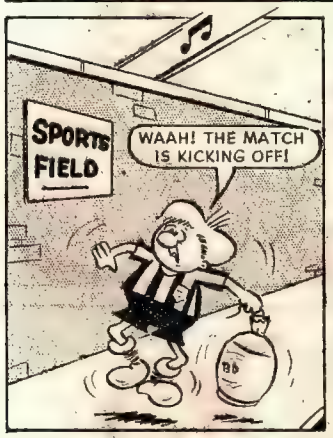
AT LAST—THOUGHT IT WOULD NEVER COME TO THE BOIL!
WHISTLE!

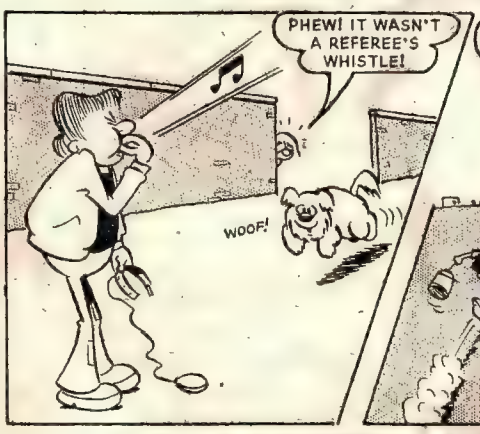

MUST DASH, OR I'LL MISS MY TRAIN!

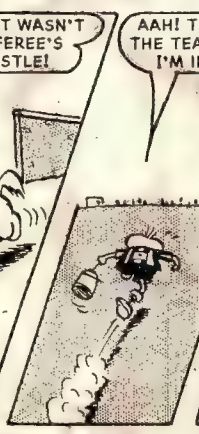

BAH! MISSED IT! NEXT TRAIN'S IN THIRTY MINUTES!
WHEEP!

WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO WHISTLE ABOUT? PESKY BIRD!


At Everpool—
PUFF! HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE!


SPORTS FIELD
WAAH! THE MATCH IS KICKING OFF!


PHEW! IT WASN'T A REFEREE'S WHISTLE!
WOOF!


AAH! THERE ARE THE TEAMS. PUFF! I'M IN TIME!

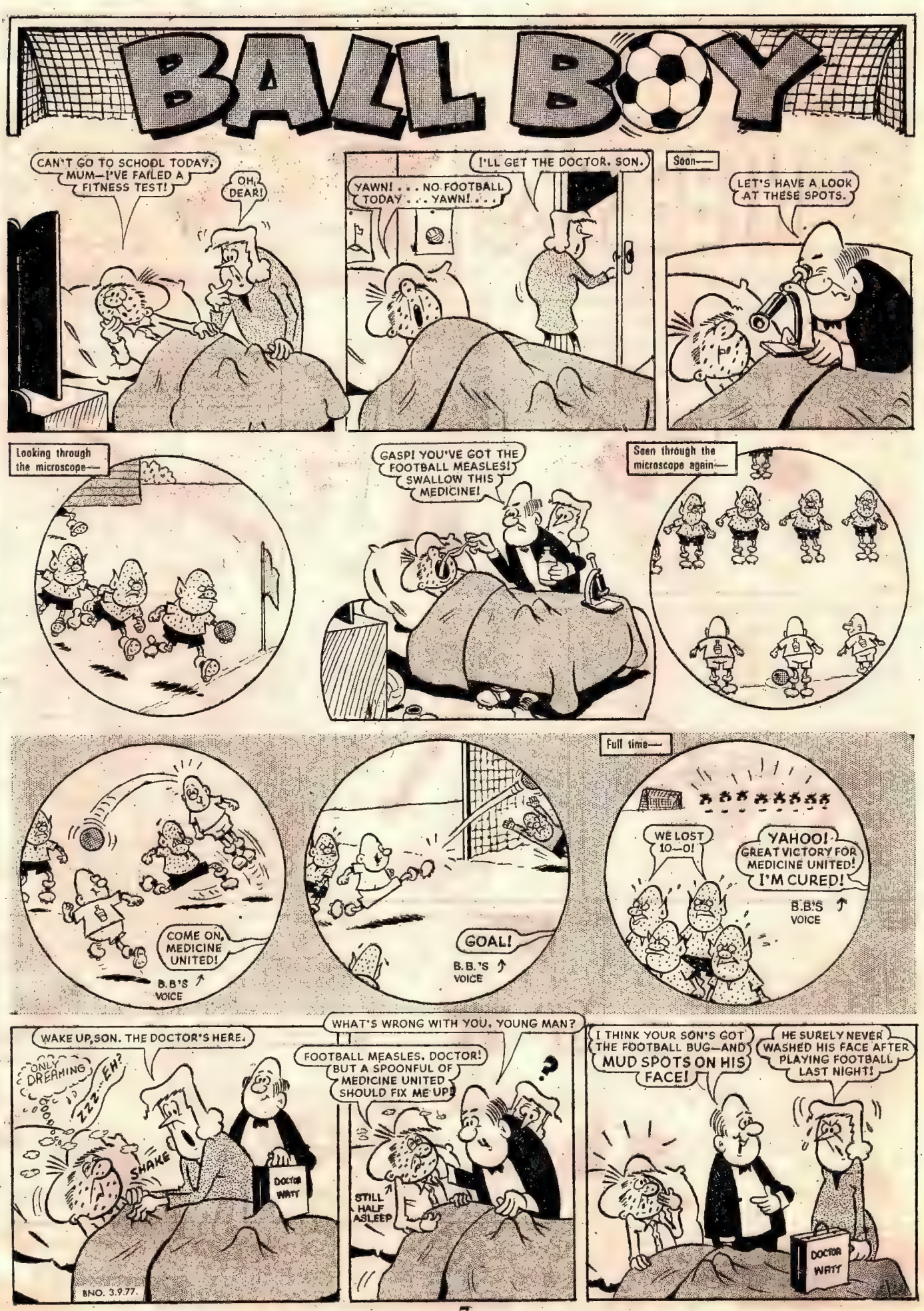
At the kick-off—
HOPE I GET NO MORE TROUBLE FROM WHISTLES.

BLAST!
EEK!
WHAT A GIFT!
BNO. 27.8.77.

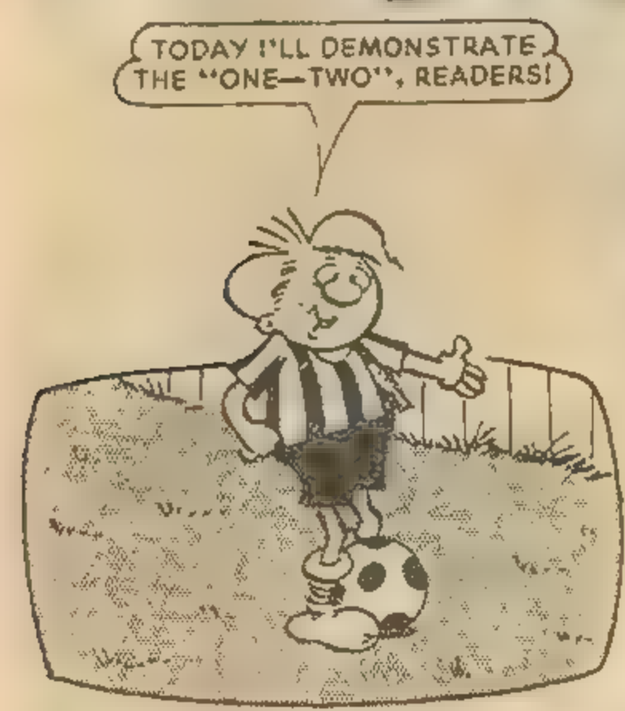
THAT SHOT FAIRLY WHISTLED INTO THE NET!

I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE WHISTLES! I RETIRE—UNTIL NEXT WEEK!

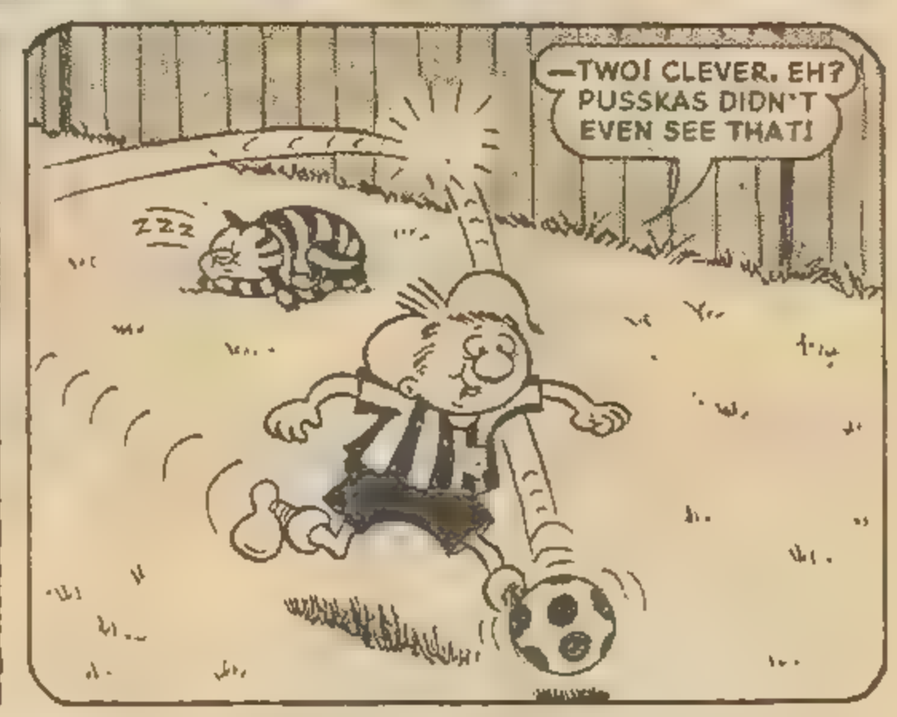
# BALL BOY


CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL TODAY, MUM—I'VE FAILED A FITNESS TEST!
OH, DEAR!
YAWN! . . . NO FOOTBALL TODAY . . . YAWN! . . .
I'LL GET THE DOCTOR, SON.
Soon—
LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THESE SPOTS.
Looking through the microscope—
GASP! YOU'VE GOT THE FOOTBALL MEASLES! SWALLOW THIS MEDICINE!
Seen through the microscope again—
COME ON, MEDICINE UNITED!
B.B.'S VOICE
GOAL!
B.B.'S VOICE
Full time—
WE LOST 10—0!
YAHOO! GREAT VICTORY FOR MEDICINE UNITED! I'M CURED!
B.B.'S VOICE
WAKE UP, SON. THE DOCTOR'S HERE.
ONLY DREAMING
ZZZ
EH?
SHAKE
DOCTOR WATT
BNO. 3.9.77.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, YOUNG MAN?
FOOTBALL MEASLES, DOCTOR! BUT A SPOONFUL OF MEDICINE UNITED SHOULD FIX ME UP!
STILL HALF ASLEEP
I THINK YOUR SON'S GOT THE FOOTBALL BUG—AND MUD SPOTS ON HIS FACE!
HE SURELY NEVER WASHED HIS FACE AFTER PLAYING FOOTBALL LAST NIGHT!
DOCTOR WATT

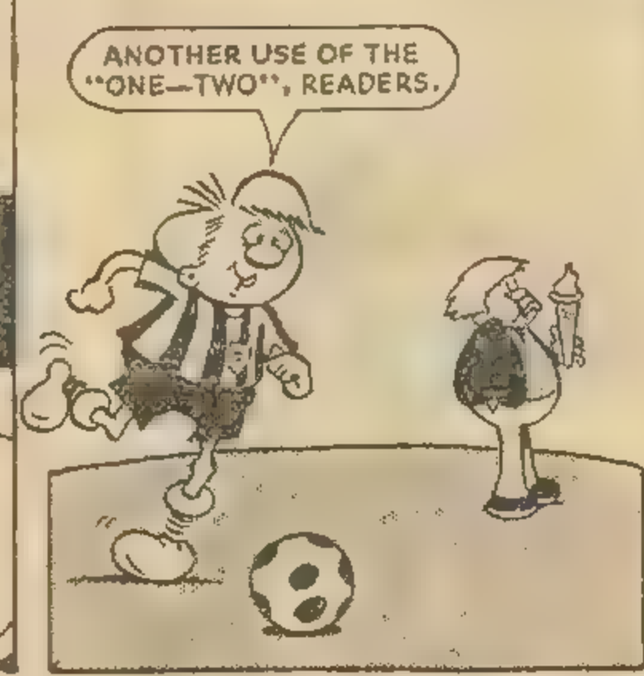
# BALL BOY

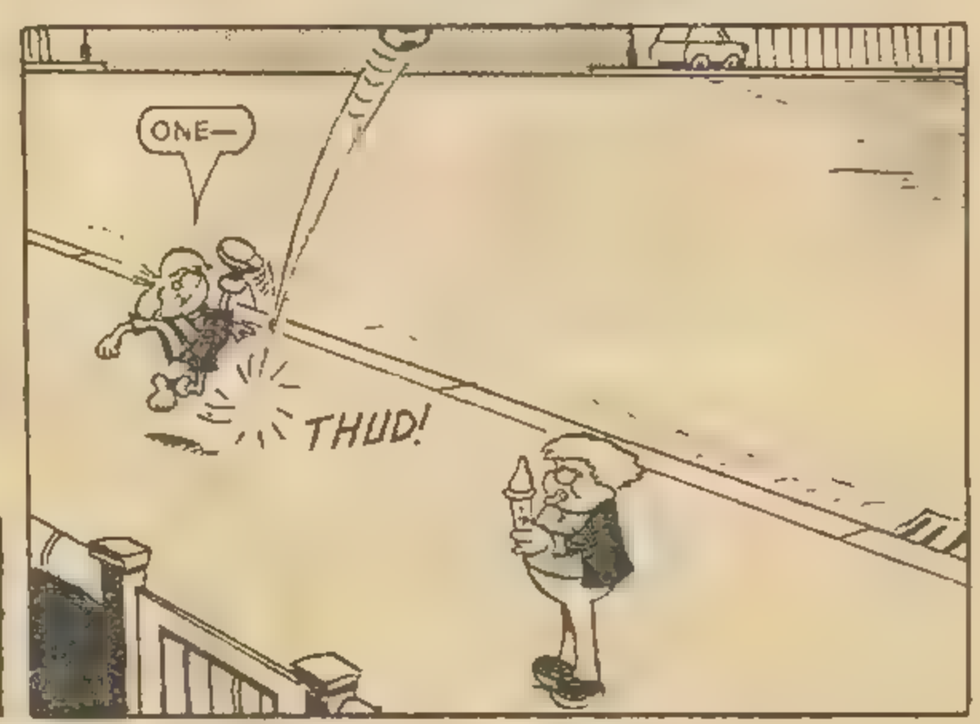

TODAY I'LL DEMONSTRATE THE "ONE—TWO", READERS!

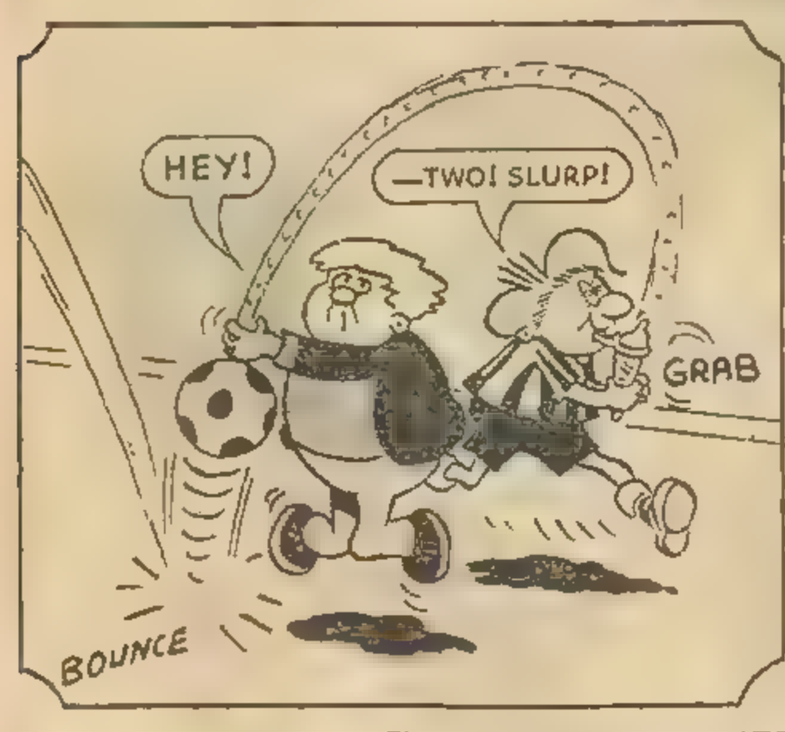
WATCH, READERS— ONE—
ZZZ

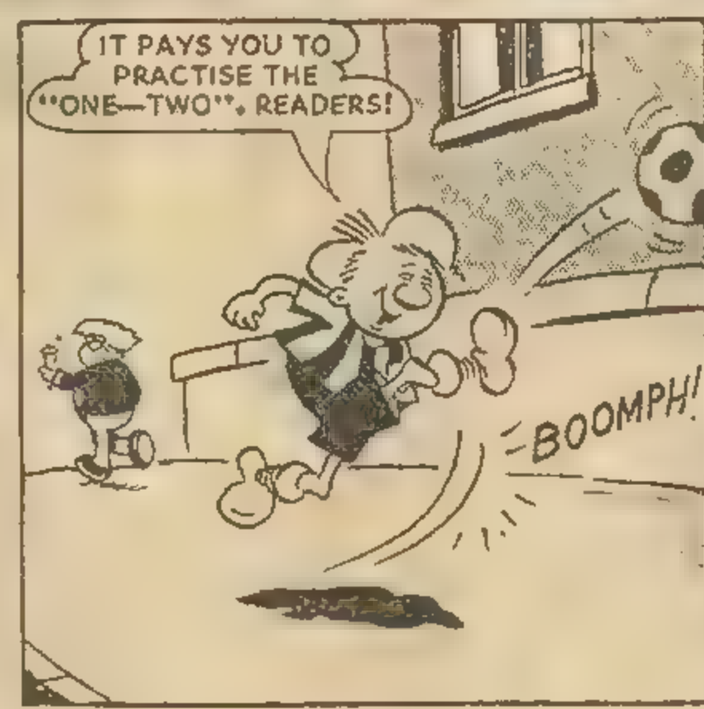

—TWO! CLEVER, EH? PUSSKAS DIDN'T EVEN SEE THAT!
ZZZ

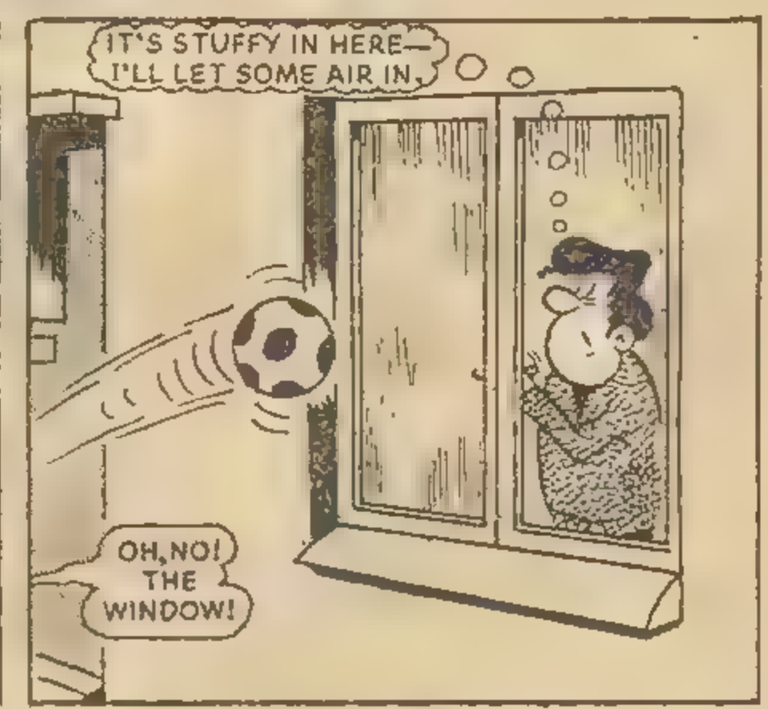
THE FACT THAT HE WAS SLEEPING HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

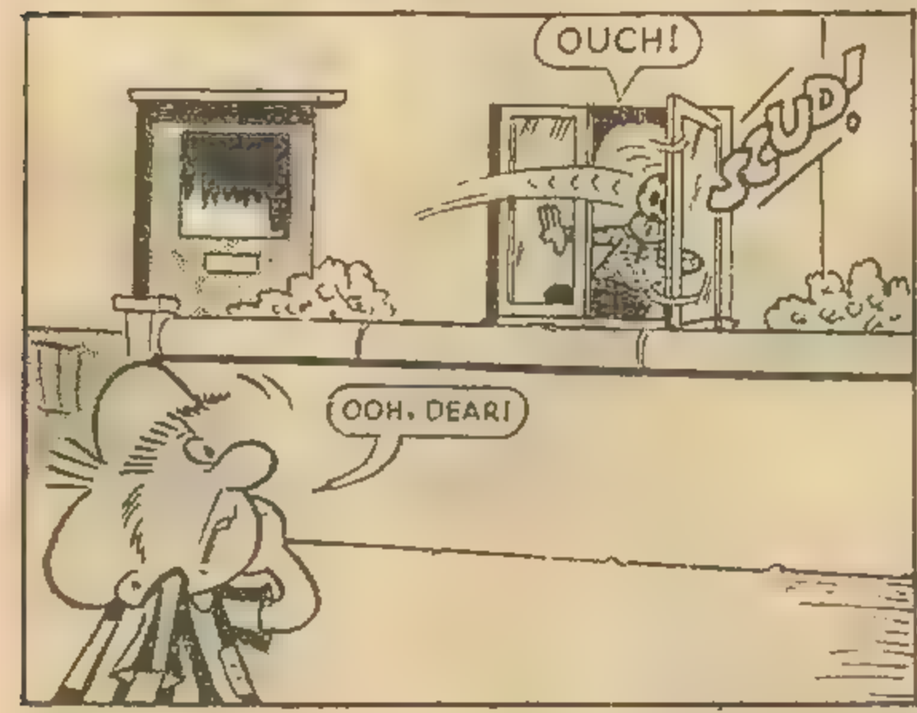

ANOTHER USE OF THE "ONE—TWO", READERS.


ONE—
THUD!

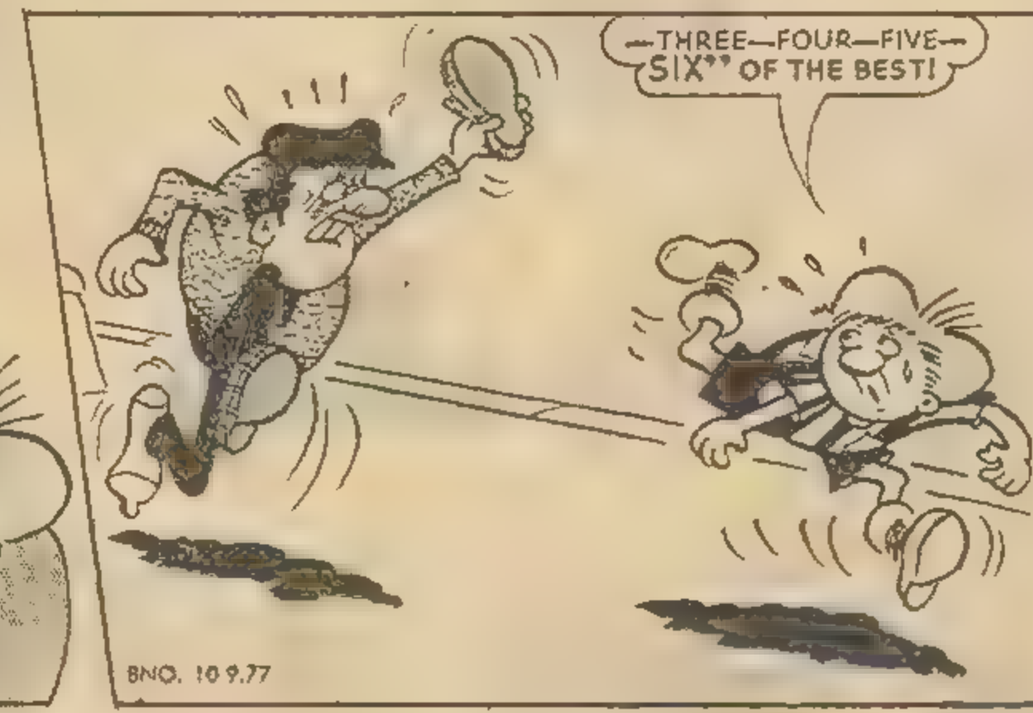

HEY!
—TWO! SLURP!
GRAB
BOUNCE


IT PAYS YOU TO PRACTISE THE "ONE—TWO", READERS!
BOOMPH!


IT'S STUFFY IN HERE— I'LL LET SOME AIR IN.
OH, NO! THE WINDOW!


OUCH!
THUD!
OOH, DEAR!

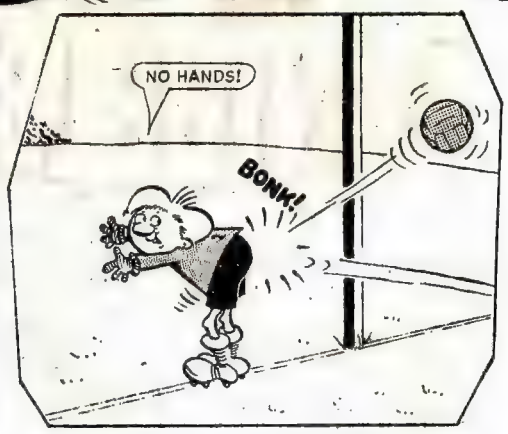
OH, OH! DAD'S GOING TO DEMONSTRATE THE "ONE—TWO—


—THREE—FOUR—FIVE— SIX" OF THE BEST!
BNO. 10 9.77

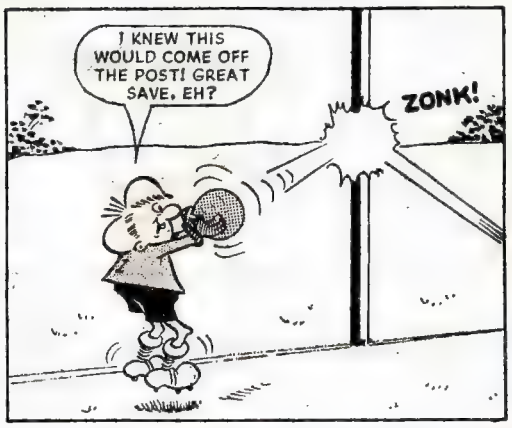
# BALL BOY

I'M IN GOAL TODAY, READERS— WATCH SOME OF MY FANCY SAVES.

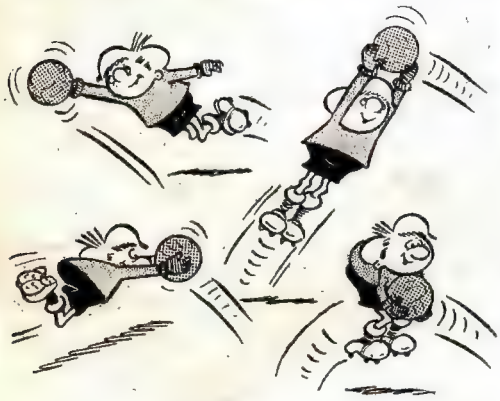
ONLY ONE HAND!
BIFF!

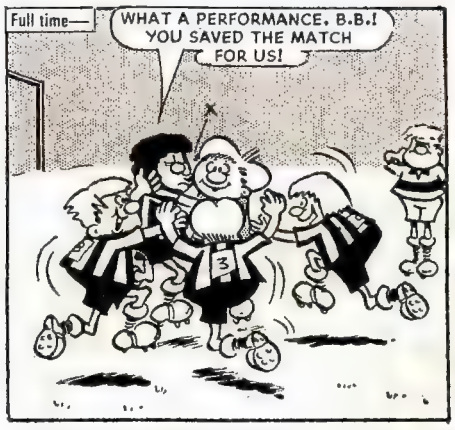

NO HANDS!
BONK!

S-C-R-E-E-A-M-!
NO NEED TO SAVE THAT SHOT— I WAS SURE THE REF. WOULD GIVE OFFSIDE!
PHEEP!


I KNEW THIS WOULD COME OFF THE POST! GREAT SAVE, EH?
ZONK!

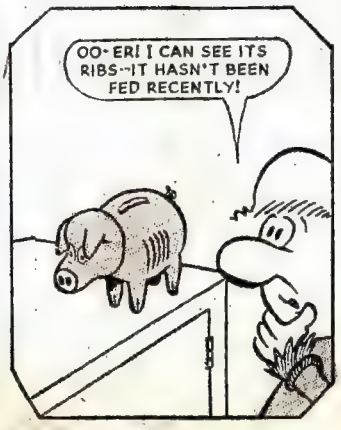
AH! THEY'RE GOING ALL OUT FOR A LAST MINUTE GOAL!

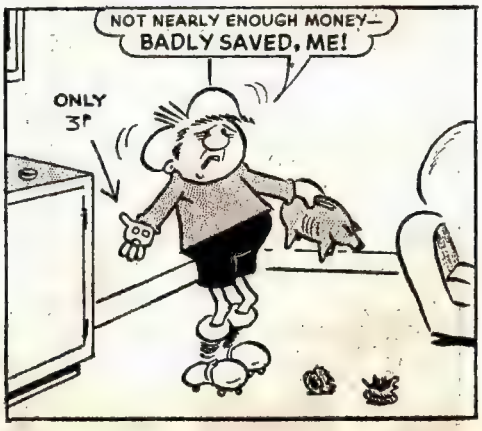



Full time—
WHAT A PERFORMANCE, B.B.! YOU SAVED THE MATCH FOR US!

I'VE HAD SO MANY SAVES, I'VE WORN OUT MY GOALIE'S GLOVES!

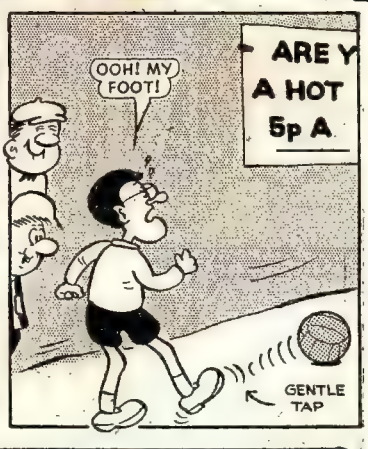
Back home—
SEE WHAT'S IN YOUR PIGGY BANK.
CAN I HAVE MONEY FOR NEW GLOVES, MUM?
BNO. 17.9.77

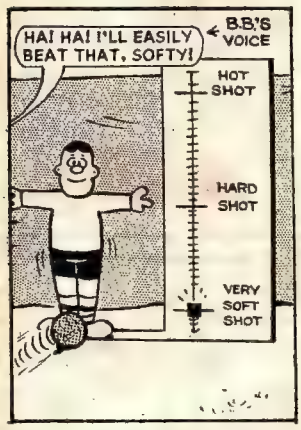

OO-ER! I CAN SEE ITS RIBS—IT HASN'T BEEN FED RECENTLY!


NOT NEARLY ENOUGH MONEY— BADLY SAVED, ME!
ONLY 3P

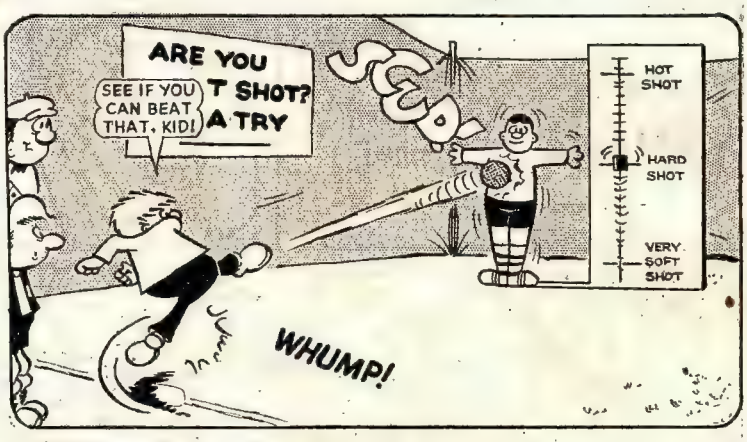
# BALL BOY

THIS SHOULD BE A LAUGH!
TITTER! SUCH FUN!
ARE YOU A HOT SHOT? 5p A TRY
HOT SHOT
HARD SHOT
VERY SOFT SHOT
WALTER, PRINCE OF SOFTIES. (AND ENEMY OF DENNIS).

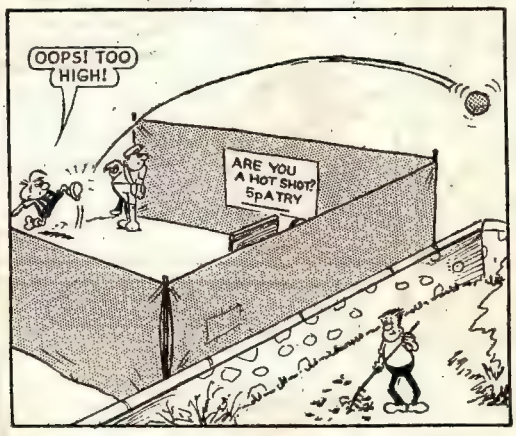

OOH! MY FOOT!
ARE Y A HOT 5p A
GENTLE TAP


HA! HA! I'LL EASILY BEAT THAT, SOFTY!
B.B.'S VOICE
HOT SHOT
HARD SHOT
VERY SOFT SHOT

STAND ASIDE! MY TURN NEXT!
SHOVE

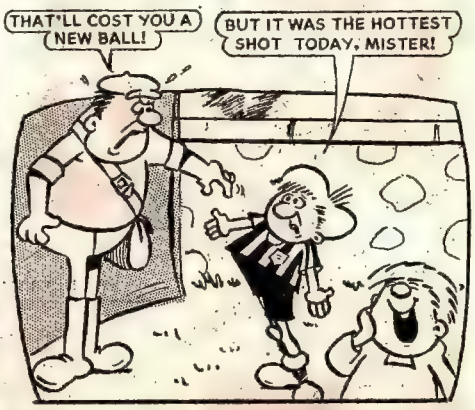

ARE YOU T SHOT? A TRY
SEE IF YOU CAN BEAT THAT, KID!
HOT SHOT
HARD SHOT
VERY SOFT SHOT
WHUMP!

OK!


OOPS! TOO HIGH!
ARE YOU A HOT SHOT? 5p A TRY

WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?

MISTER—DID A BALL COME OVER HERE?
THERE IT IS—WHAT'S LEFT OF IT!
SINGE
BNO. 1.10.77


THAT'LL COST YOU A NEW BALL!
BUT IT WAS THE HOTTEST SHOT TODAY, MISTER!

# BALL BOY

OH, NO! HE'S MISSED AN OPEN GOAL!

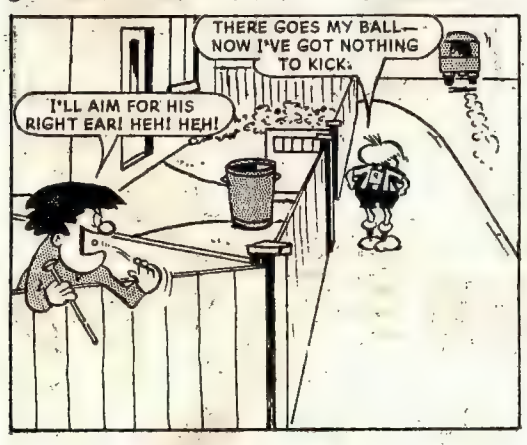

Later—
SNORT! THAT'S THE FIFTH OPEN GOAL HE'S MISSED!


SIGH! ALL MY SHOTS FAILED TO LAND IN THE NET— MUST PRACTISE MY SHOOTING MORE.

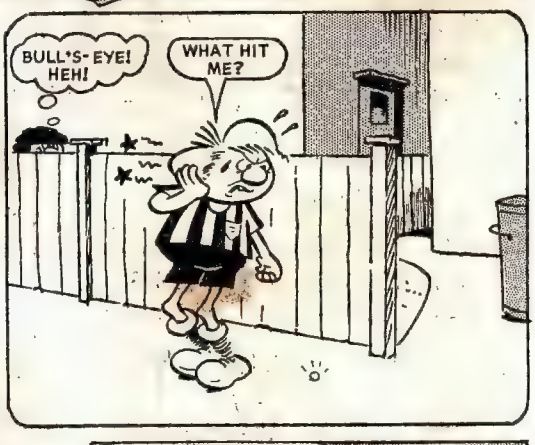
So—
BAH! THAT SHOT DIDN'T LAND IN THE NET!
THUD!
CLUNK!

I'LL TAKE THIS! PEST!
BUT, DAD—I NEED A BALL TO PRACTISE MY SHOTS!

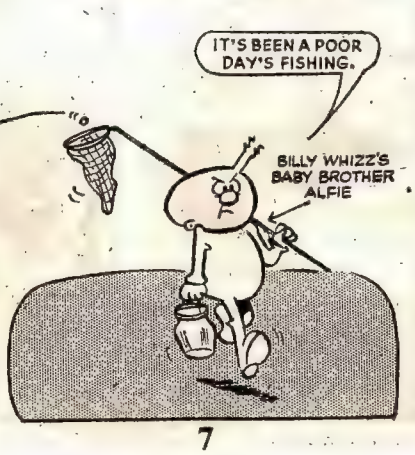
Shortly—
BAH! THAT DIDN'T LAND IN THE NET EITHER!
PAPER BALL

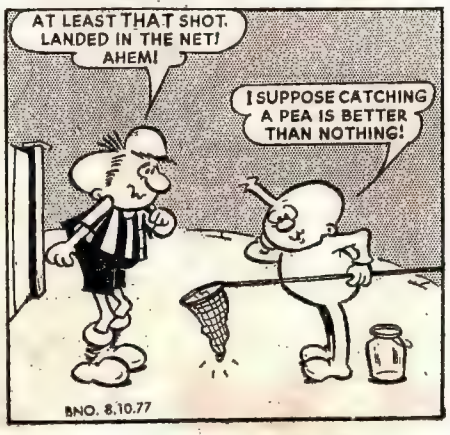

THERE GOES MY BALL— NOW I'VE GOT NOTHING TO KICK.
I'LL AIM FOR HIS RIGHT EAR! HEH! HEH!

OOYAH!
PING!


BULL'S-EYE! HEH!
WHAT HIT ME?

GRR! A PESKY PEA! TAKE THAT, PEA!
BOOT

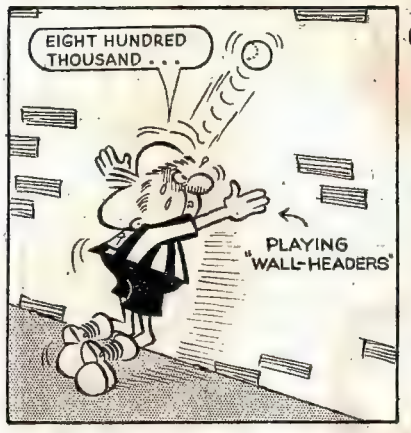

IT'S BEEN A POOR DAY'S FISHING.
BILLY WHIZZ'S BABY BROTHER ALFIE


AT LEAST THAT SHOT LANDED IN THE NET! AHEM!
I SUPPOSE CATCHING A PEA IS BETTER THAN NOTHING!
BNO. 8.10.77

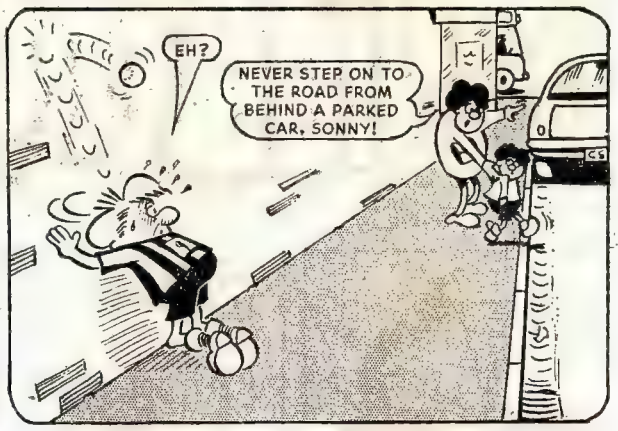
# BALL BOY

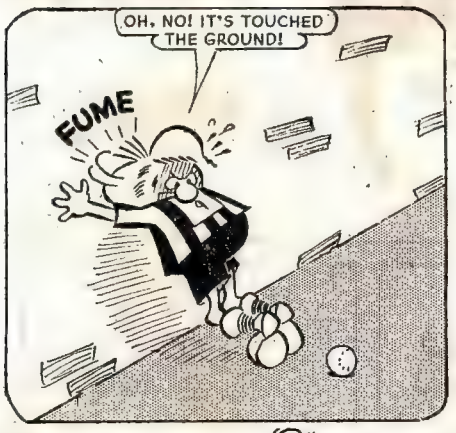
HUH! I'M ONLY A SUBSTITUTE TODAY—HOPE I GET A GAME.
OOH! I THINK IT'S BROKEN!
POOR CHAP—AHEM! BETTER GET READY TO REPLACE HIM!
I'M NOT NEEDED AFTER ALL!
YES—PESKY LACE WAS BROKEN. BUT I'VE FIXED IT.
I'VE AN IDEA THAT ROGER THE DODGER WOULD BE PROUD OF!
TOMMY—YOUR TEA'S READY! COME FOR IT AT ONCE!
LADYLIKE VOICE
GIVE UP, B-B—THAT'S NOT A BIT LIKE MY MUM'S VOICE!
HUH! LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT GOING TO BE NEEDED.
GENTLE TACKLES
GOSH! THERE'S GOING TO BE A NASTY COLLISION HERE, THOUGH!
THUNDER!
THUNDER!
OUCH!
OOF!
CRUMP!
OOYAH!
WE'LL DEFINITELY NEED A REPLACEMENT.
I'M READY—I'M READY!
BAH! I'M A SUBSTITUTE CORNER FLAG—IT WAS THE ONLY CASUALTY!
BMO 15.10.77

# BALL BOY

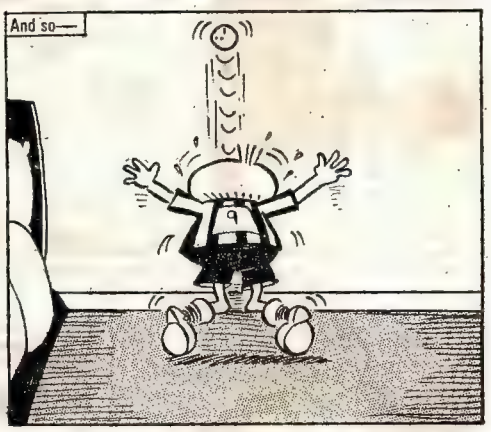

EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND . . .
PLAYING "WALL-HEADERS"

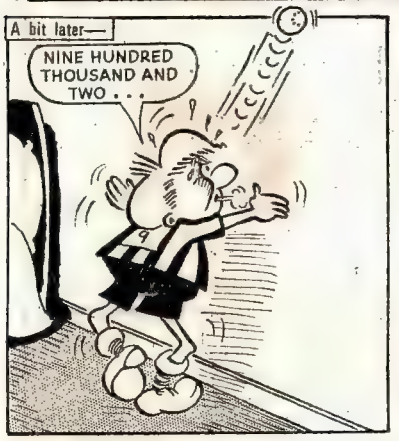
EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND AND ONE . .
LOOK OUT!

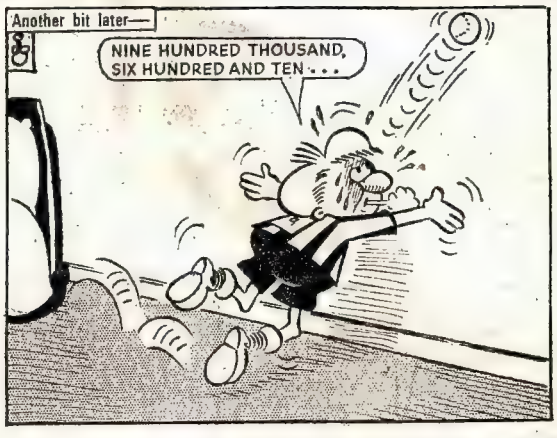

EH?
NEVER STEP ON TO THE ROAD FROM BEHIND A PARKED CAR, SONNY!

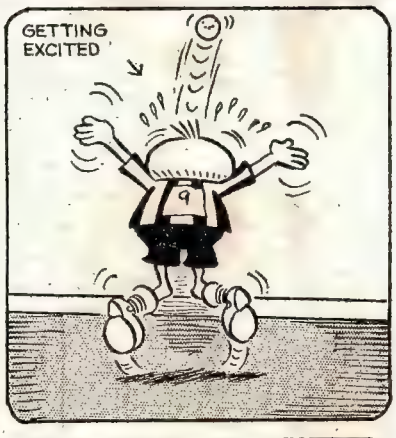

OH, NO! IT'S TOUCHED THE GROUND!
FUME

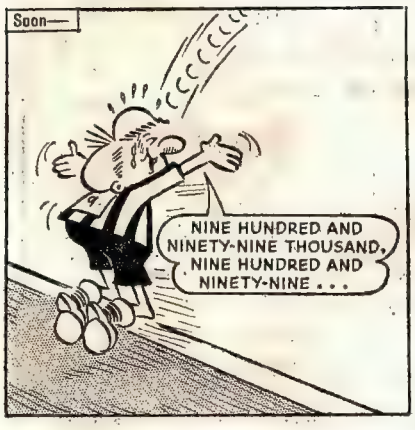
I'LL DO A MILLION "HEADERS" YET—IN MY BEDROOM, WHERE THERE'LL BE NO INTERRUPTIONS!


And so—


A bit later—
NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND AND TWO . . .


Another bit later—
NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED AND TEN . . .


GETTING EXCITED


Soon—
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE . . .

WHERE DID THE BALL GO?

IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO SAY THAT NUMBER THAT I MISSED THE BALL!

ONE—GASP!—TWO—WHEEZE!
BNO. 22.10.77

# BALL BOY

THREE THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED AND . . .
HEY, BOY! I WANT YOU!
GULP! IT'S OUR SPORTS MASTER! BET HE'S FOUND OUT THAT I BOOTED THAT BALL THROUGH THE GYM WINDOW!
OOF!
THUD!
HE'S GOING TO COMPLAIN TO MY DAD, AND I'LL GET A WHACKING!
TREMBLE
WILL YOU GO DOWN TO HUGH MENDERS, THE SHOE REPAIRER, AND COLLECT MY FOOTBALL BOOTS?
PHEW!
RELIEVED
I'M IN A HURRY FOR THEM, SO YOU'D BETTER USE MY BIKE AND TAKE THE SHORT-CUT DOWN COBBLE LANE.
YES, SIR!
COBBLE LANE. FIRST LEFT.
So—
OUCH! OW! EEK! AAGH! ERK!
THUD! THUD! THUD! THUD!
Coming back—
OW! OUCH! EEK! AAGH! OUCH!
GOOD—HERE HE COMES!
BNO. 29.10.77
THANK YOU, BOY!
10p
OOOH! I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE GOT A WHACKING!

# BALL BOY

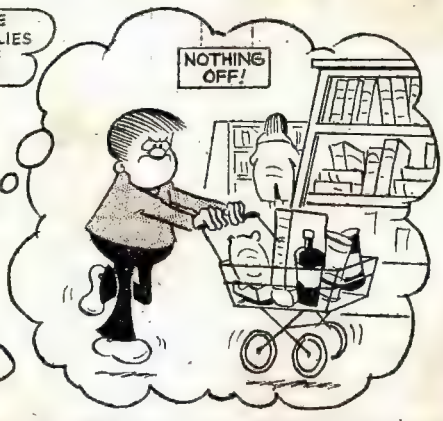
I'M NOT SURE IF I'LL PICK MYSELF TO PLAY AT LEFT BACK, CENTRE HALF, LEFT WINGER OR GOALKEEPER TODAY..
TEAM HUT

Soon—
BAD NEWS, B.B.!
WHAT IS IT?

THE LEFT BACK'S BEEN LEFT BACK AT HOME WITH A BAD COLD!
HMMPH!
AAAHCHOO!
TISSUES

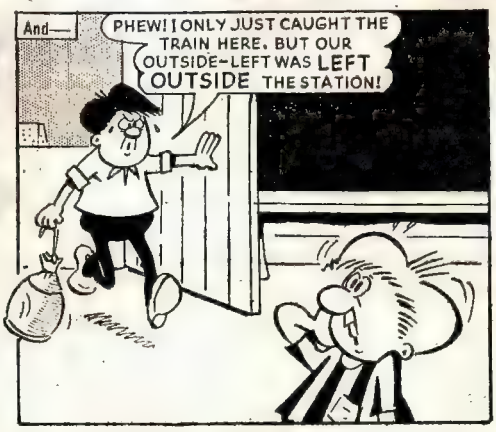
NO CENTRE-HALF EITHER B.B.—HE'S A SHOPPING CENTRE HALF TODAY.

..SO HE'LL BE PUSHING TROLLIES INSTEAD OF FORWARDS!


NOTHING OFF!

HOPE THERE ARE NO MORE CALL-OFFS.

But—
NO KEEPER—HIS MUM'S KEEPING HIM IN!
CALAMITY!

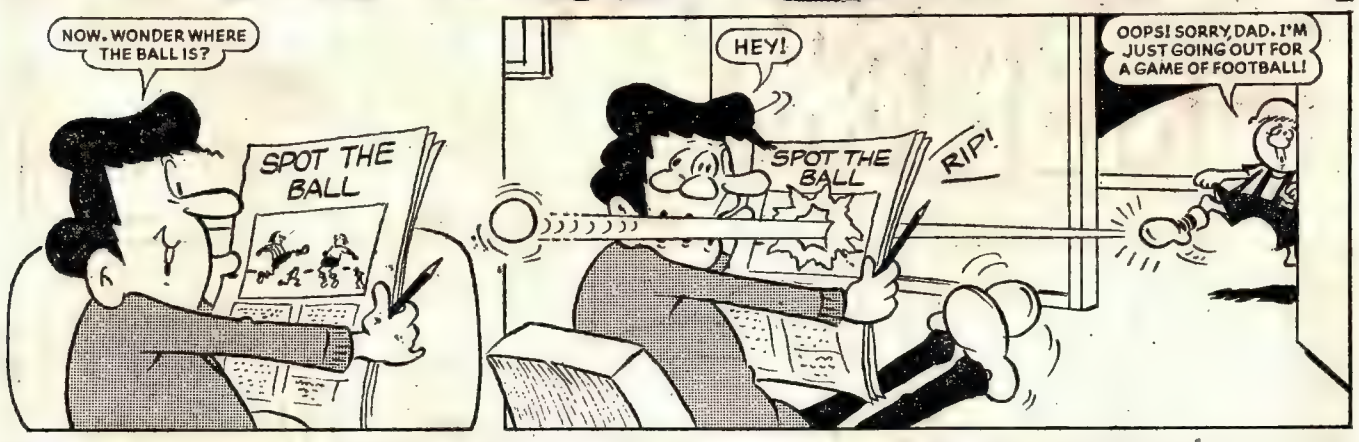

And—
PHEW! I ONLY JUST CAUGHT THE TRAIN HERE, BUT OUR OUTSIDE-LEFT WAS LEFT OUTSIDE THE STATION!

MY TEAM PLANS ARE CRASHING AROUND ME!

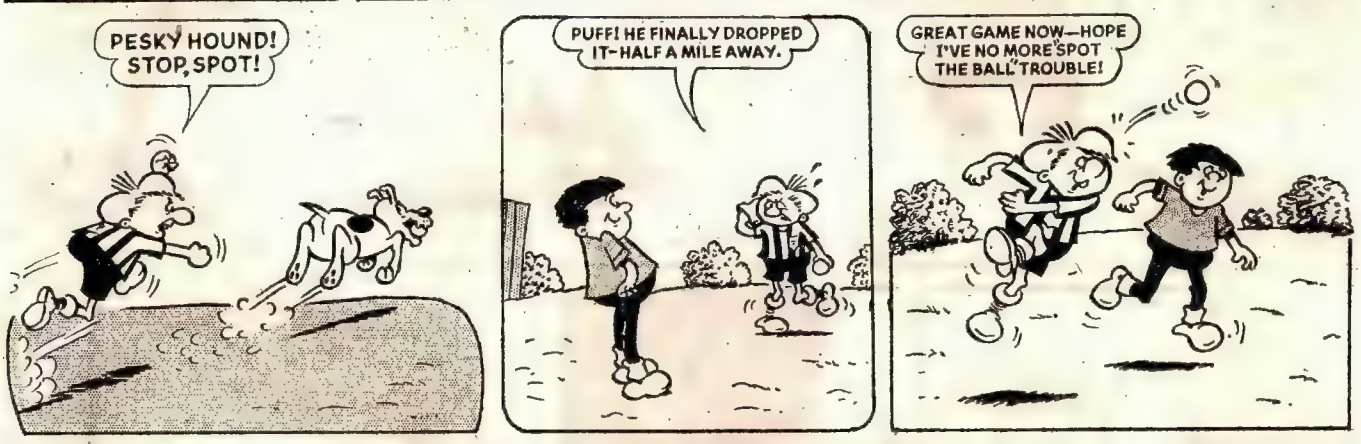
PUFF! ALL THESE CALL-OFFS SOLVED ONE PROBLEM, READERS . . .

. . . WHERE TO PICK MYSELF! I'M OUTSIDE-LEFT, LEFT BACK, CENTRE-HALF AND GOALKEEPER! WHEEZE!
KEEPER'S JERSEY
BNO. 5.11.77

# BALL BOY


NOW. WONDER WHERE THE BALL IS?
SPOT THE BALL
HEY!
SPOT THE BALL
RIP!
OOPS! SORRY, DAD. I'M JUST GOING OUT FOR A GAME OF FOOTBALL!

Later—
I'LL GET IT, JIM!
CAN'T SEE IT! BAH! NOW I'LL HAVE TO SPOT THE BALL!
FOUND IT AT LAST! BACK TO THE GAME NOW.
OH. NO—NOW SPOT'S GOT THE BALL!
SNATCH


PESKY HOUND! STOP, SPOT!
PUFF! HE FINALLY DROPPED IT—HALF A MILE AWAY.
GREAT GAME NOW—HOPE I'VE NO MORE SPOT THE BALL TROUBLE!

Then—
SUPPER'S READY, SON!
GULP! MUM! AND THE GAME'S NOT FINISHED YET!
I WANT TO KEEP PLAYING—MUST HIDE!
WHERE ARE YOU, SON?
BNO. 12.11.77
DON'T TELL HER WHERE I AM, READERS! MUM'S NOT GOOD AT "SPOT THE BALL BOY"!
WHERE IS HE?

# BALL BOY

Saturday lunch time—
AND WHAT ARE YOUR CHANCES AGAINST UNITED TODAY?
ER—WE'LL EITHER WIN OR LOSE—OR MAYBE IT'LL BE A DRAW . . .
GREAT PROGRAMME, THIS!
SAT
T.V. SOCCER PREVIEW
THINK I'LL DO MY OWN PREVIEW BEFORE OUR MATCH TODAY.
LOLLIPOP
At a team-mate's house—
AND HOW DO YOU THINK TODAY'S MATCH WILL GO?
MMMF! GLMMF!
COME IN AND FINISH YOUR DINNER, INSTEAD OF CHOMPING AWAY LIKE A CAMEL!
TEAM-MATE'S MUM
SO MUCH FOR THAT INTERVIEW!
I MIGHT HAVE MORE SUCCESS HERE, VIEWERS—I MEAN, READERS!
. . AND WILL YOU BE DELIGHTING US WITH SPARKLING RUNS DOWN THE WING, AND DANGEROUS CROSSES?
NO!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? I HURT MY FOOT LAST WEEK, AND I CAN'T PLAY TODAY!
JEW
I'VE BEEN LOOKING ROUND FOR AGES—CAN'T FIND ANYONE TO PREVIEW TODAY'S MATCH!
AH! THERE ARE SOME OF MY PLAYERS. I'LL INTERVIEW THEM.
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK THE FINAL SCORE WILL BE TODAY?
A THREE-ONE DEFEAT!
YOU SEEM VERY CERTAIN!
I AM—
—THE GAME'S OVER AND WE HAD TO PLAY WITHOUT YOU!
WAAH! I WOULDN'T LIKE TO PREVIEW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF THEY CATCH ME!
BNO. 19.11.77

# BALL BOY

At B.B.'s school—

NOW, CLASS—I WANT YOU TO WRITE AN ESSAY ABOUT WHAT LIFE WILL BE LIKE A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW . . .

THE FUTURE

I BET FOOTBALL CHANGES A LOT. THERE WILL PROBABLY BE ROBOT REFEREES . . .

YOU ARE OFFSIDE BY HALF A METRE!

PHEEP!

CLANKOOYAH! I AWARD AN OFFSIDE PENALTY THROW-IN!

PHEEP!

OH! OH! BETTER CALL ONE OF THE TRAINERS ON!

THE REF'S INJURED!

KLANK!

THUMP!

HEH! I'LL ADJUST THIS SO IT GIVES UNFAIR DECISIONS TO B.B.'S TEAM!

OPPOSITION'S TRAINER

Shortly—

PHEEP!

GOAL!

I SAW THAT—YOU TOOK A DELIBERATE KICK AT THE BALL—I AWARD A FOUL!

BUT . . .

GREAT SAVE, 'KEEPER!

PENALTY! HE HANDLED THE BALL!

PHEEP!

BUT HE'S THE GOALIE!

NO ARGUMENTS—YOU'RE ALL SENT OFF!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO WRITE IN YOUR ESSAY, BOY?

GOAL!

SHAKE

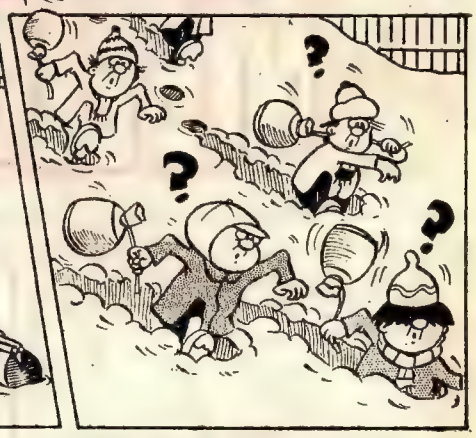
—THAT TODAY'S REFEREES AREN'T NEARLY AS BAD AS I THOUGHT!

BNO. 26.11.77

# BALL BOY

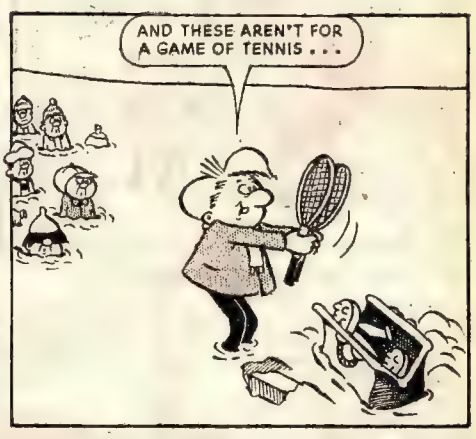
TODAY'S MATCH WILL BE OFF— OUR PITCH IS IN A HOLLOW, AND THE SNOW'S ALWAYS DEEPEST THERE.

LOOK—THE PITCH IS ALL RIGHT! THE SNOW'S ONLY UP TO BALL BOY'S ANKLES!
COME ON, BOYS!

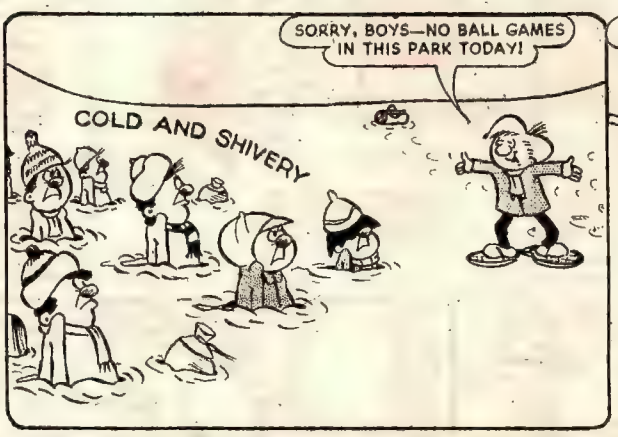


WAAH! THE SNOW'S GETTING DEEPER! WHAT'S B.B. UP TO?

HEH! FOOLED YOU—I'M STANDING ON THE CROSS-BAR!
SCRAPE

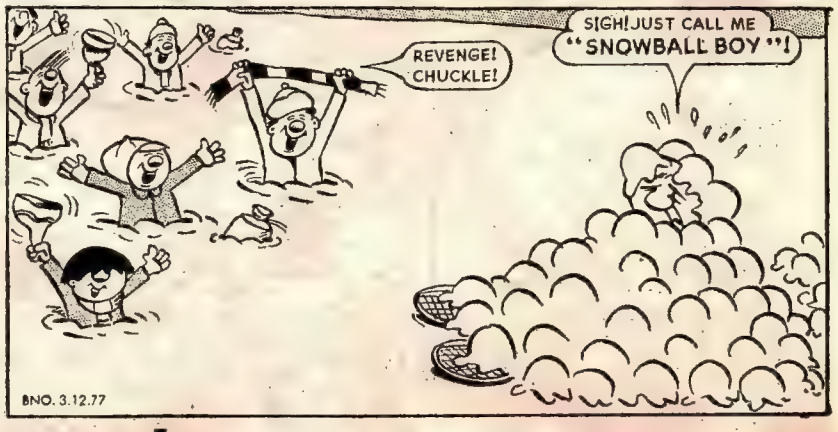

AND THESE AREN'T FOR A GAME OF TENNIS . . .

. . . GREAT SNOWSHOES, EH?

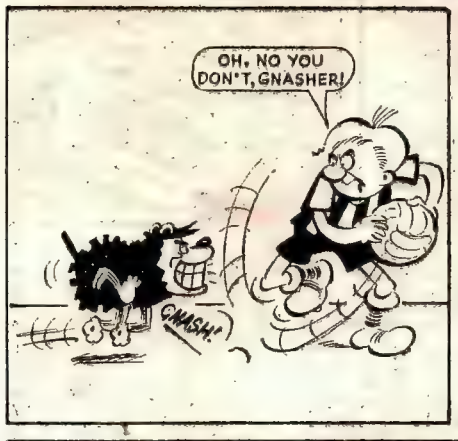

SORRY, BOYS—NO BALL GAMES IN THIS PARK TODAY!
COLD AND SHIVERY

THERE'S ONE BALL GAME WE CAN PLAY, B.B.!
EH? WHAT'S THAT?

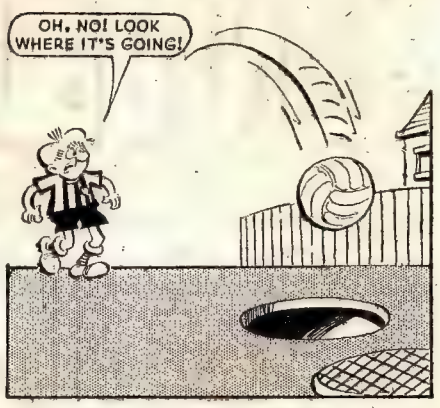
A SNOWBALL GAME!
SPLATTER!


REVENGE! CHUCKLE!
SIGH! JUST CALL ME "SNOWBALL BOY"!
BNO. 3.12.77

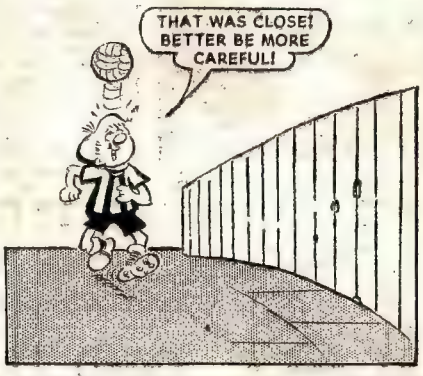
# BALL BOY

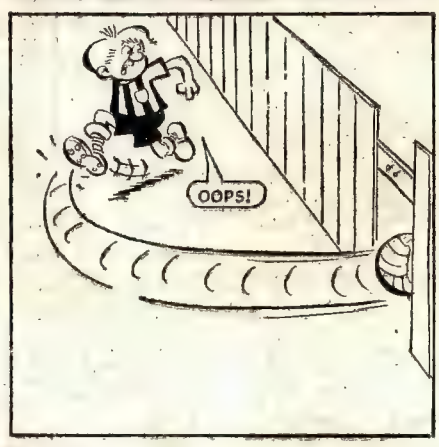

OH, NO YOU DON'T, GNASHER!
GNASH!

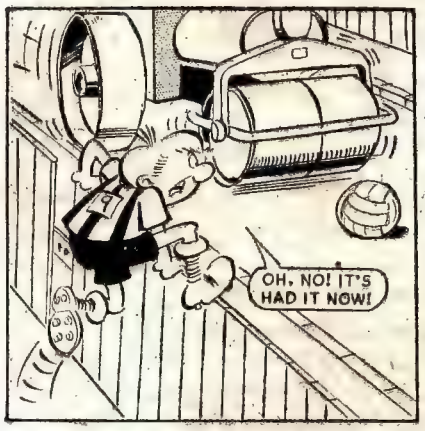
I NEED THIS BALL FOR TODAY'S CUP FINAL.
GRR!

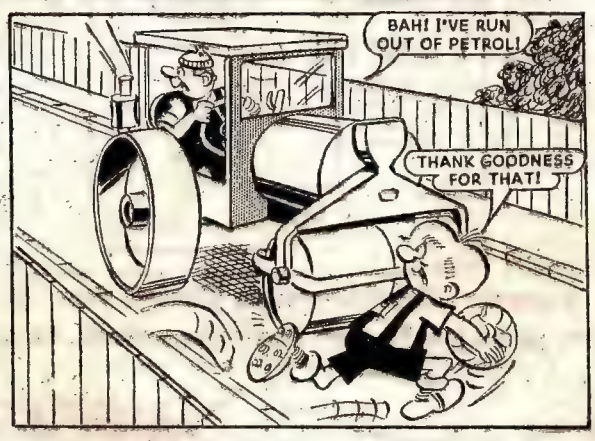

OH, NO! LOOK WHERE IT'S GOING!

THANKS, MISTER!
HOI!
BONK!

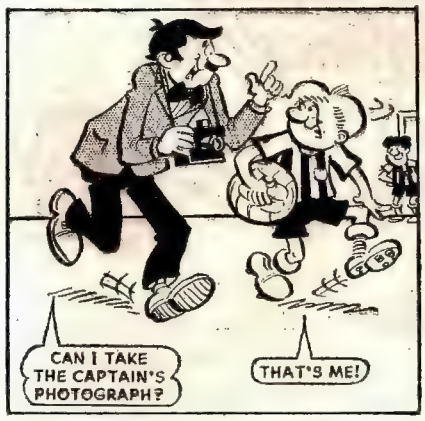

THAT WAS CLOSE! BETTER BE MORE CAREFUL!

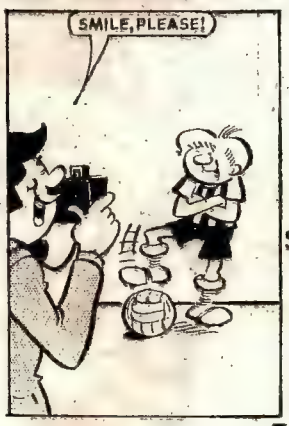

OOPS!


OH, NO! IT'S HAD IT NOW!


BAH! I'VE RUN OUT OF PETROL!
THANK GOODNESS FOR THAT!

HI, PALS!

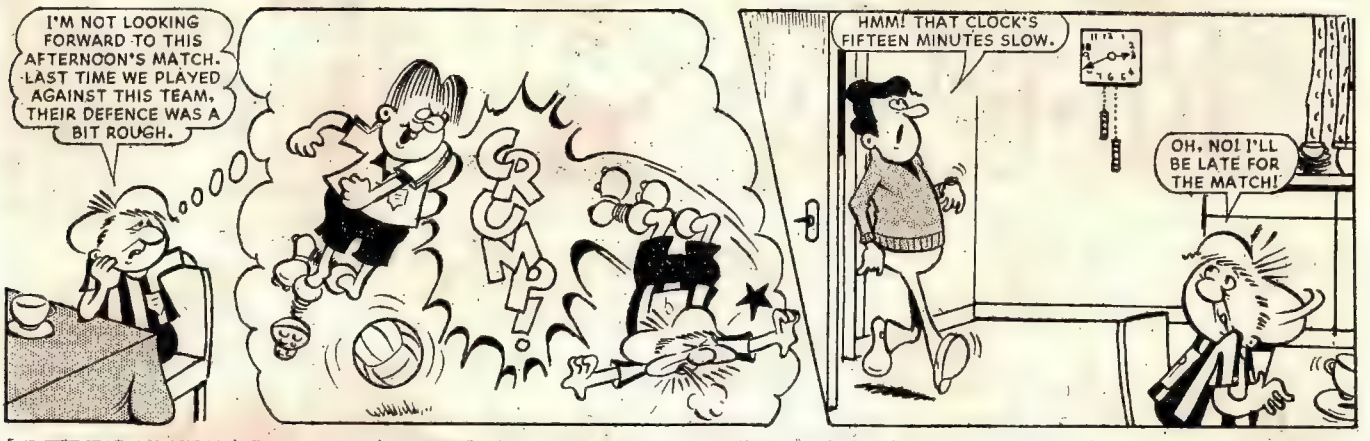

CAN I TAKE THE CAPTAIN'S PHOTOGRAPH?
THAT'S ME!


SMILE, PLEASE!

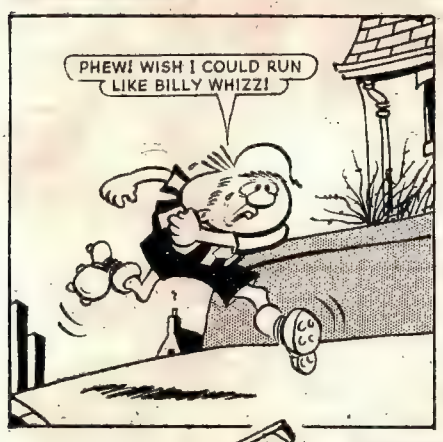
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
SSSSS

THE BALL'S BURST!
A NAIL IN MY BOOT! AFTER ALL THAT TROUBLE.
BNO. 10.12.77

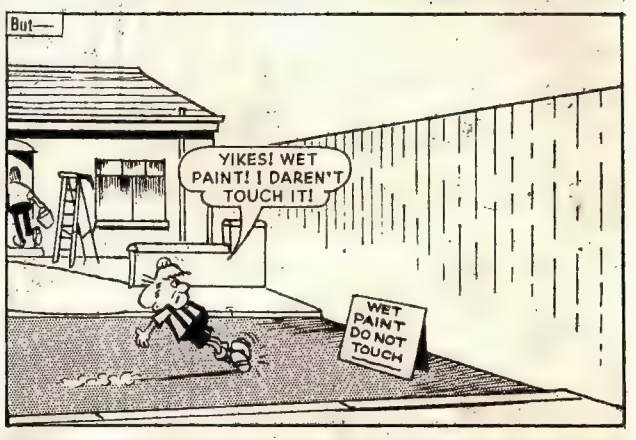
# BALL BOY


I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS AFTERNOON'S MATCH. LAST TIME WE PLAYED AGAINST THIS TEAM, THEIR DEFENCE WAS A BIT ROUGH.
CRUNCH!

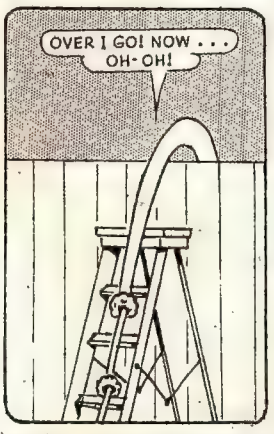

HMM! THAT CLOCK'S FIFTEEN MINUTES SLOW.
OH, NO! I'LL BE LATE FOR THE MATCH!

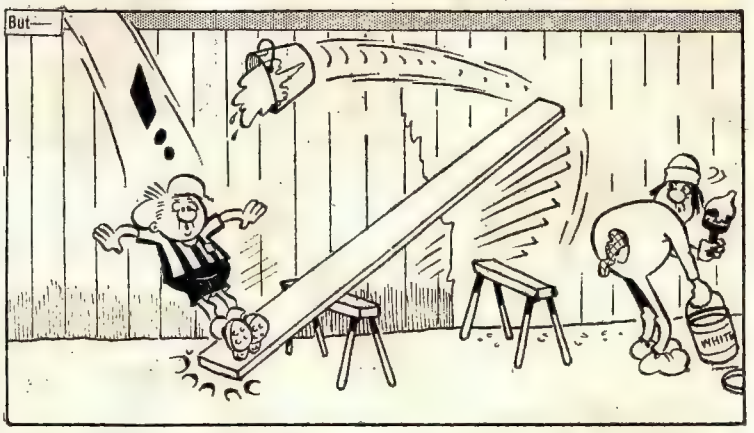

PHEW! WISH I COULD RUN LIKE BILLY WHIZZ!

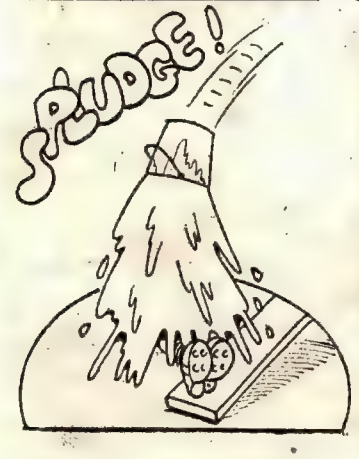
I'LL TAKE A SHORT-CUT DOWN HERE AND CLIMB THE PARK FENCE.


But—
YIKES! WET PAINT! I DAREN'T TOUCH IT!
WET PAINT DO NOT TOUCH

I'LL BORROW THESE STEPS!


OVER I GO! NOW . . . OH-OH!


But—
WHITE


SPLUDGE!

Later—
MOVE OVER! I CAN'T SEE HOW B.B.'S DOING AGAINST THEIR BIG DEFENDERS!
READER'S VOICE
HE'S PLAYING WELL! SCORED THREE GOALS SO FAR!

I'M NOT TOUCHING HIM!
THERE HE GOES FOR HIS FOURTH GOAL!
WET PAINT DO NOT TOUCH
BNO. 17.12.77

# BALL BOY

IT'S NEARLY CHRISTMAS— I THINK IT WOULD BE A NICE IDEA IF WE GAVE THE REFEREE A FEW GIFTS TODAY.

And so—
SOMETHING FOR YOU, REF!

A NEW WHISTLE! THANKS VERY MUCH!

A GIFT FOR YOU, REF! NEW GLASSES— YOU NEED THEM!

HERE'S SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HELP YOU KEEP UP WITH THE PLAY!
ROLLER SKATES

SO MUCH FOR MY GOOD IDEA!
A DISGUISE OUTFIT FOR YOU—YOU'LL NEED IT TO GET AWAY AFTER THE GAME!

Another gift later—
PLEASE DON'T TAKE ANY NOTICE OF THEM! THEY WERE ONLY JOKING . . . AHEM!
?
RULES OF SOCCER

IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYWAY. I'M REFEREEING THE GAME NEXT TO YOURS. THIS IS YOUR REF!
TOOT REF.

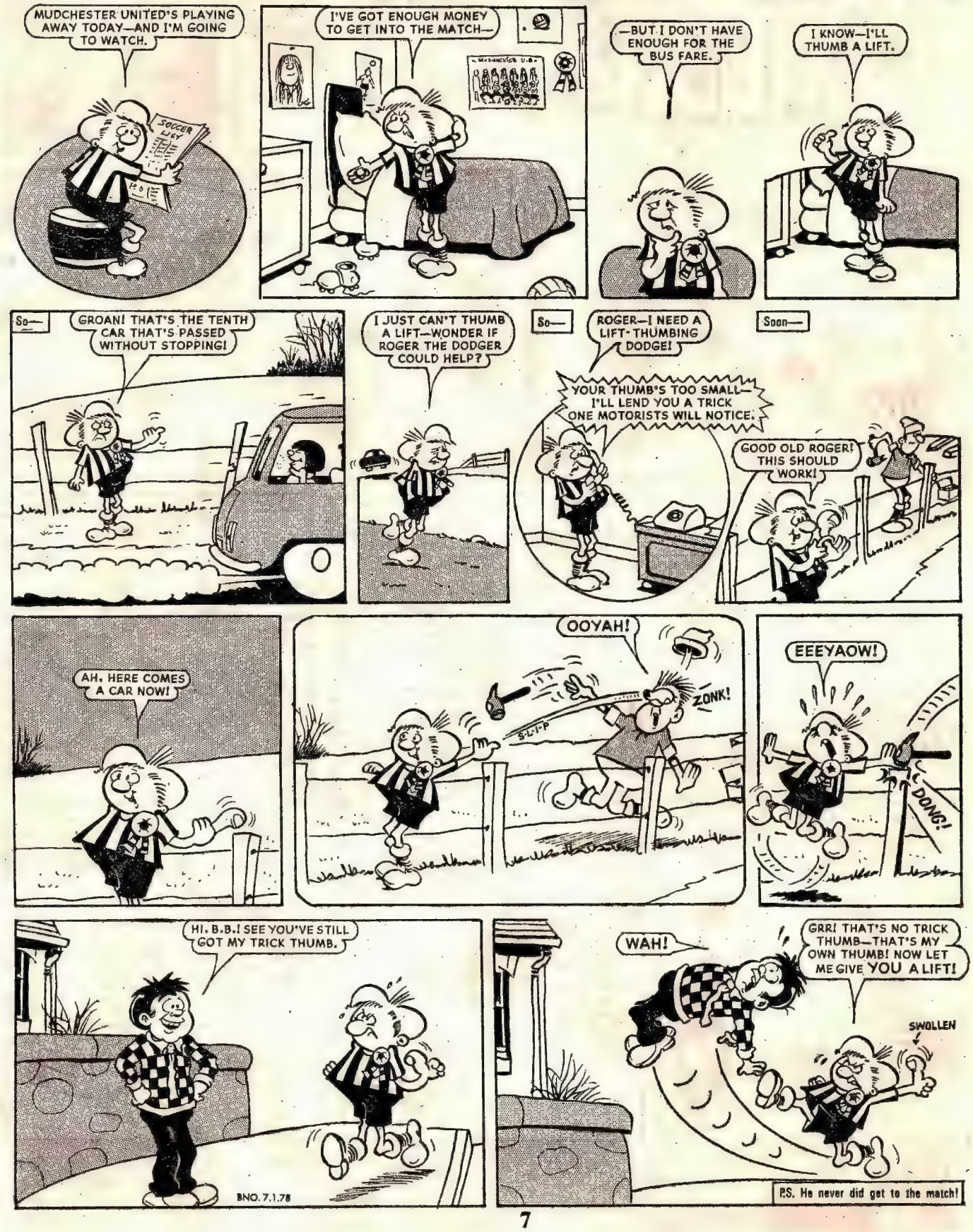
GOOD JOB THAT WASN'T OUR REFEREE. WE'VE A CHANCE TO WIN NOW.

PHEEP!
BNO. 24.12.77

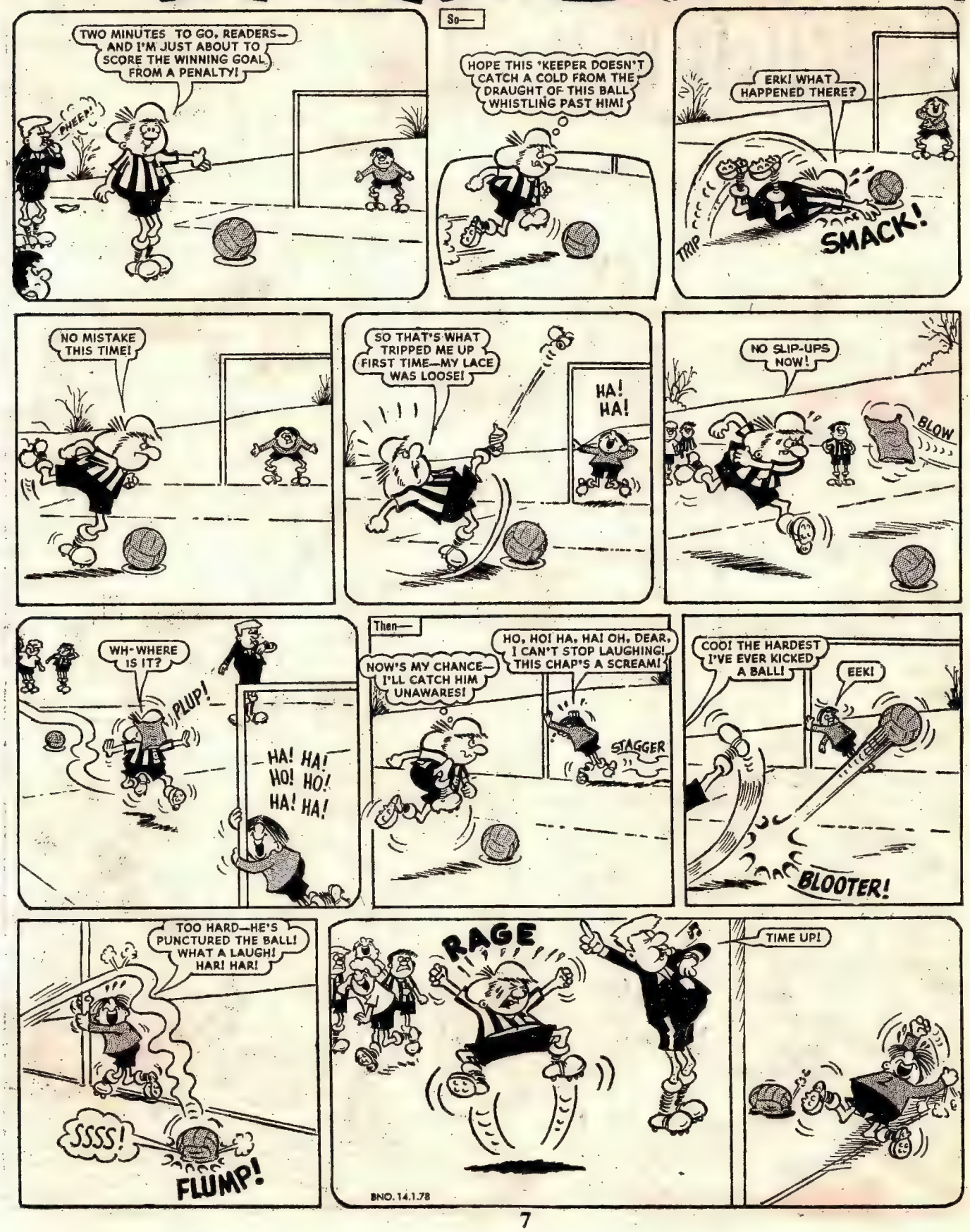
0-0—and seconds to go—
GOOD TACKLE! THANKS TO ME HE DIDN'T GET A PROPER SHOT AT GOAL!
TRUNDLE!

OH, NO! NOW OUR 'KEEPER'S GIVING AWAY GIFTS! THAT GOAL'S THE BIGGEST GIFT I'VE EVER SEEN!
ER-OOPS!

# BALL BOY


MUDCHESTER UNITED'S PLAYING AWAY TODAY—AND I'M GOING TO WATCH.
SOCCER LEAGUE
I'VE GOT ENOUGH MONEY TO GET INTO THE MATCH—
—BUT I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FOR THE BUS FARE.
I KNOW—I'LL THUMB A LIFT.
So—
GROAN! THAT'S THE TENTH CAR THAT'S PASSED WITHOUT STOPPING!
I JUST CAN'T THUMB A LIFT—WONDER IF ROGER THE DODGER COULD HELP?
So—
ROGER—I NEED A LIFT-THUMBING DODGE!
YOUR THUMB'S TOO SMALL—I'LL LEND YOU A TRICK ONE MOTORISTS WILL NOTICE.
Soon—
GOOD OLD ROGER! THIS SHOULD WORK!
AH, HERE COMES A CAR NOW!
OOYAH!
ZONK!
SLIP
EEEYAOW!
DONG!
HI, B.B.! SEE YOU'VE STILL GOT MY TRICK THUMB.
BNO. 7.1.78
WAH!
GRR! THAT'S NO TRICK THUMB—THAT'S MY OWN THUMB! NOW LET ME GIVE YOU A LIFT!
SWOLLEN
P.S. He never did get to the match!

# BALL BOY


TWO MINUTES TO GO, READERS— AND I'M JUST ABOUT TO SCORE THE WINNING GOAL FROM A PENALTY!
PHEEP!
So—
HOPE THIS 'KEEPER DOESN'T CATCH A COLD FROM THE DRAUGHT OF THIS BALL WHISTLING PAST HIM!
ERK! WHAT HAPPENED THERE?
TRIP
SMACK!
NO MISTAKE THIS TIME!
SO THAT'S WHAT TRIPPED ME UP FIRST TIME—MY LACE WAS LOOSE!
HA! HA!
NO SLIP-UPS NOW!
BLOW
WH-WHERE IS IT?
PLUP!
HA! HA! HO! HO! HA! HA!
Then—
NOW'S MY CHANCE— I'LL CATCH HIM UNAWARES!
HO, HO! HA, HA! OH, DEAR, I CAN'T STOP LAUGHING! THIS CHAP'S A SCREAM!
STAGGER
COO! THE HARDEST I'VE EVER KICKED A BALL!
EEK!
BLOOTER!
TOO HARD—HE'S PUNCTURED THE BALL! WHAT A LAUGH! HAR! HAR!
SSSS!
FLUMP!
RAGE
TIME UP!
BNO. 14.1.78

# BALL BOY

MUST BE A GOAL!
AW, NO— IT HIT THE POST!
CRACK!
GASP! DIDN'T THINK I COULD HIT A BALL THAT HARD!
He can't—
YUM! TASTY MEAL, THAT!
WOOD WORMS
SMIFFY'S PET WOODWORMS
SORE ON YOUR TEETH, THIS!
I'LL SEE IF I CAN FIND ANOTHER POST— NO FOOTBALL TILL I DO.
ANY IDEA WHERE I CAN GET A POST, MISTER?
JUST ROUND THE CORNER, LAD— ONLY 5P.
WHAT LUCK! TA, MISTER!
EEYUK! HE MEANT THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER—HUH!
MUDCHESTER POST
LATEST SPORTS NEWS
Later—
COULDN'T FIND A WOODEN POST ANYWHERE.
HEY, LOOK—IMAGINE US FORGETTING THERE WAS A SPARE POST UNDER OUR HUT!
OUT WITH THAT POST, BOYS!
CRUNK!
HEAVE— OOPS!
So—
THAT'S YOU ON THE INJURY LIST, B.B.!
MARVELLOUS—FIRST I COULDN'T PLAY BECAUSE I HIT THE POST—NOW I CAN'T PLAY BECAUSE THE POST HIT ME!
BNO. 21.1.78

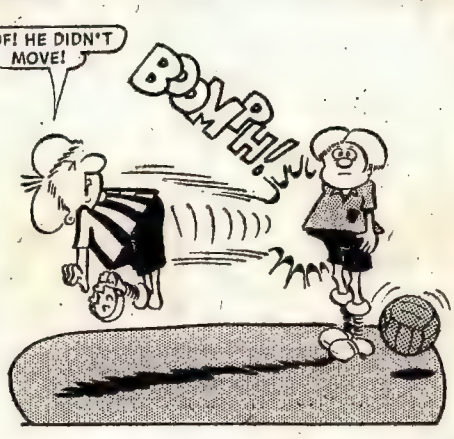
# BALL BOY

KICK-OFF— TO ME!

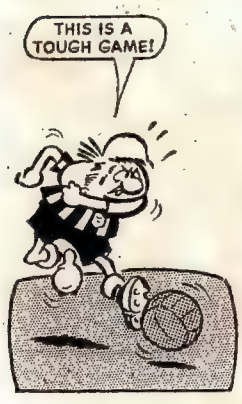
MY BALL!

OOOF!
BOOT
OOO. MY TUM! KNEW IT WAS A MISTAKE TO PLAY WITHOUT A REFEREE!

Shortly—
I'LL SWAY TO THE RIGHT TO DRAW HIM, THEN RUN STRAIGHT ON.

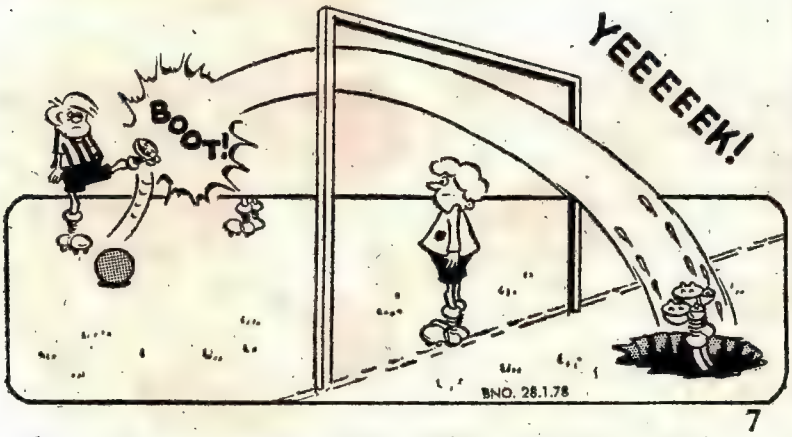

OOOF! HE DIDN'T MOVE!
BOMPH!

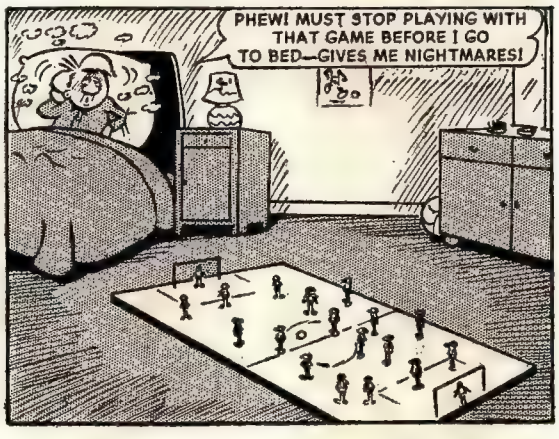
HE'S EVEN TRYING TO KICK ME WHEN I'M DOWN—WHAT A DIRTY TEAM!


THIS IS A TOUGH GAME!

AH, ONE OF MY TEAM! I'LL LET SOMEBODY ELSE DO THE WORK FOR A CHANGE.
TAP

GO ON, THEN—SHOOT!

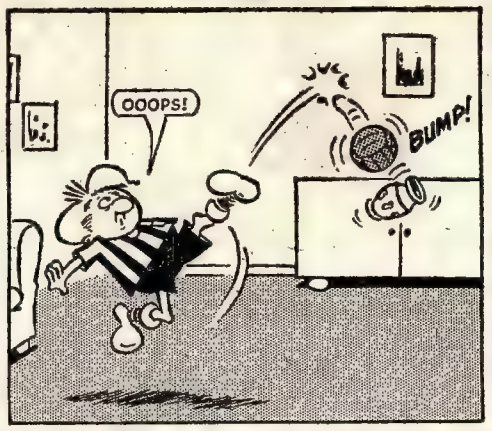

BOOT!
YEEEEEK!
BNO. 28.1.78

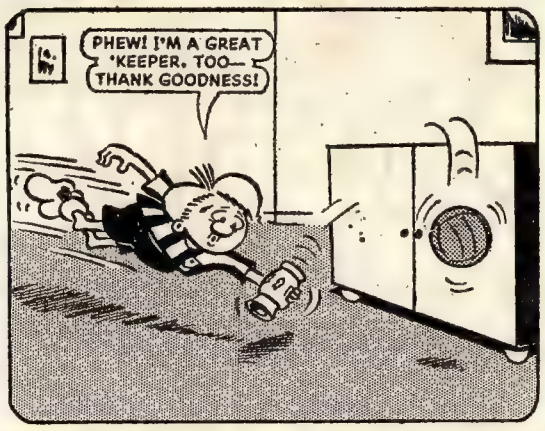

PHEW! MUST STOP PLAYING WITH THAT GAME BEFORE I GO TO BED—GIVES ME NIGHTMARES!

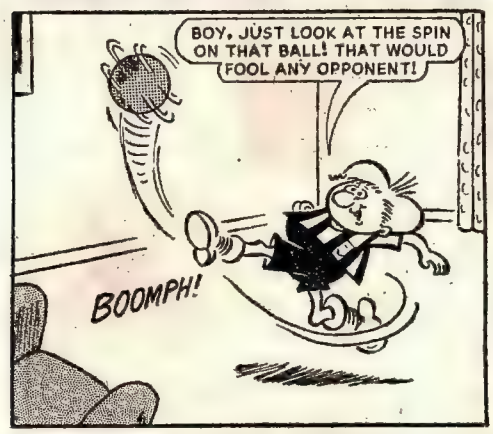
BALL BOY
OUR RIGHT WINGER'S JUST CALLED TO SAY HE'S UNFIT FOR TODAY'S GAME. WE NEED A REPLACEMENT.
HOPE I CAN FIND SOMEONE ON MY WAY TO THE MATCH!
OOPS!
COO!
JUST HANGING AROUND
TRAP
BRILLIANT!
LAZY JUGGLE
COME ON! YOU'RE PLAYING ON THE RIGHT WING FOR US TODAY!
B- BUT I LIKE HANGING AROUND CORNERS!
NONSENSE! FOOTBALL'S BETTER THAN HANGING AROUND CORNERS. HERE'S YOUR STRIP.
HUH!
Soon—
GASP! THIS IS FAR TOO ENERGETIC FOR ME—WHEEZE!
Nearly the whole match later—
THIS COULD BE THE WINNING GOAL!
IT IS!
I'M DISALLOWING THAT GOAL— YOUR WINGER WAS OFFSIDE! THERE WERE NO DEFENDERS BETWEEN HIM AND THE GOAL LINE!
BNO. 4.2.78
HAPPY AGAIN
OH, NO! HE'S STILL HANGING AROUND CORNERS!

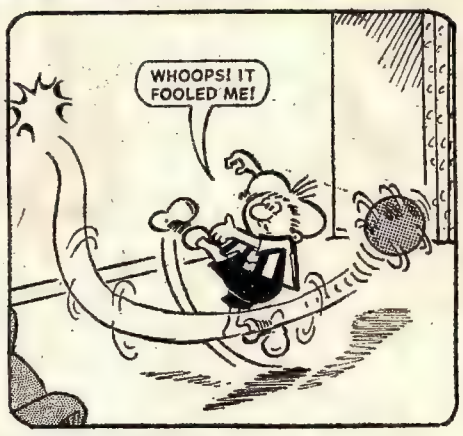
# BALL BOY

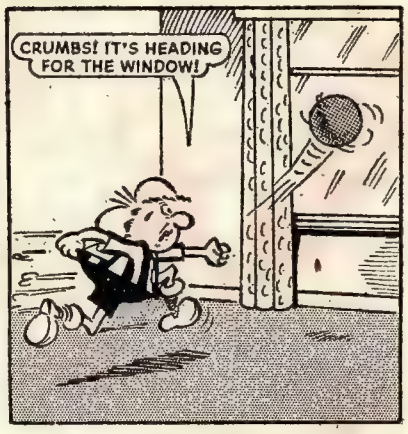
I'M A GREAT FORWARD!

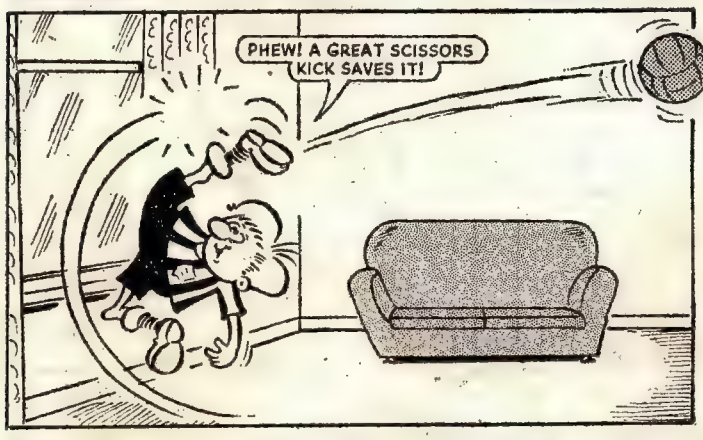

OOOPS!
BUMP!

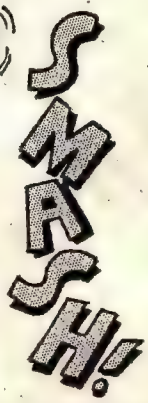

PHEW! I'M A GREAT 'KEEPER, TOO— THANK GOODNESS!

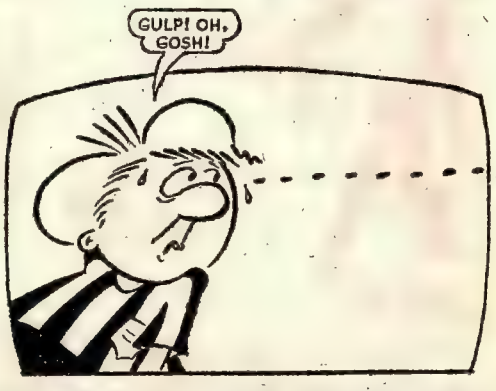

BOY, JUST LOOK AT THE SPIN ON THAT BALL! THAT WOULD FOOL ANY OPPONENT!
BOOMPH!


WHOOPS! IT FOOLED ME!


CRUMBS! IT'S HEADING FOR THE WINDOW!

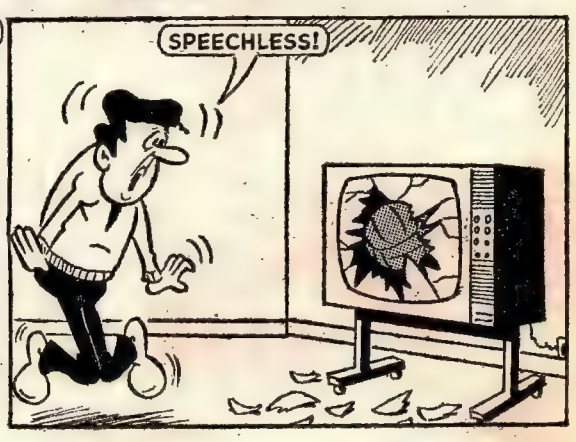

PHEW! A GREAT SCISSORS KICK SAVES IT!


SMASH!


GULP! OH, GOSH!

I NEED TO RELAX. WHAT'S ON THE TELLY, SON?
FOOTBALL!
BNO. 11.2.78

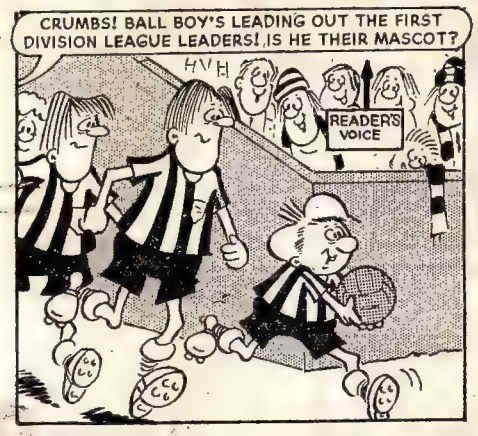
FOOTBALL? OH, GREAT!


SPEECHLESS!

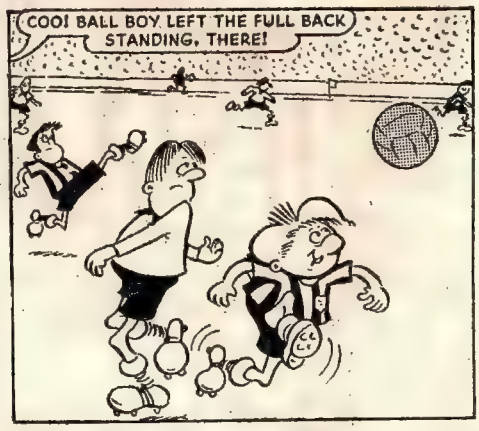
# BALL BOY

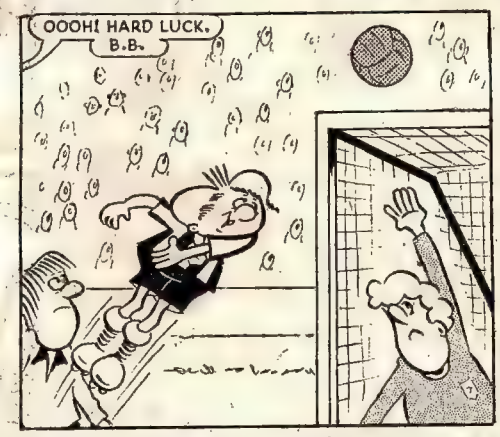
BAH! WHAT A MISS!
BOOT!
HA! HA!
HUH! ANOTHER WILD SHOT!
OH, NO—NOT AGAIN!
SNARL! MUST HAVE A WORD WITH B.B. AFTER THE GAME, ABOUT HIS TERRIBLE SHOOTING!
Full time—
DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR AIM BEFORE THE NEXT MATCH!
I WILL, I WILL!
Later—
TARGET PRACTICE SHOULD HELP.
Soon—
I'M IMPROVING.
Later—
BANG ON TARGET!
Later—
TEN-BULL'S-EYES IN A ROW—YAHOO!
HMM! GREAT SHOOTING FROM B.B.—I'M IN GOALS AGAINST HIS TEAM TOMORROW—MUST DO SOMETHING . . .
Next day—
B.B.'S SHOOTING'S BEEN BANG ON TARGET TODAY . . .
. . . BUT I WISH IT WASN'T! GROAN!
RAGE! I CAN'T RESIST SHOOTING AT THAT TARGET!
ANOTHER SHOT COMING STRAIGHT AT ME!
BNO. 25.2.78

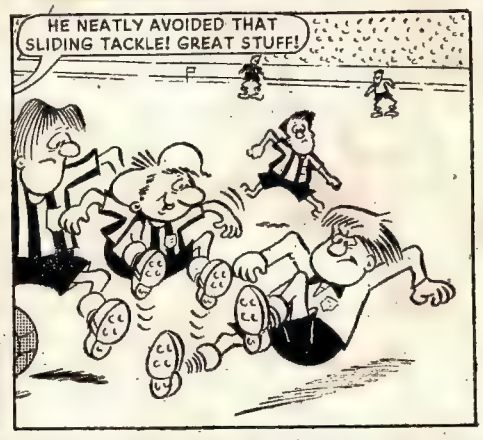
# BALL BOY


CRUMBS! BALL BOY'S LEADING OUT THE FIRST DIVISION LEAGUE LEADERS! IS HE THEIR MASCOT?
READER'S VOICE

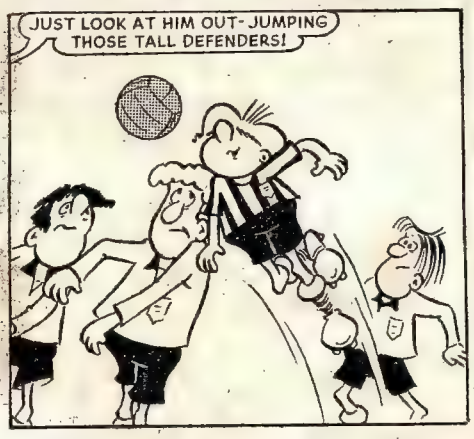
GOSH! HE'S NOT A MASCOT—HE'S ACTUALLY PLAYING!
SAME READER

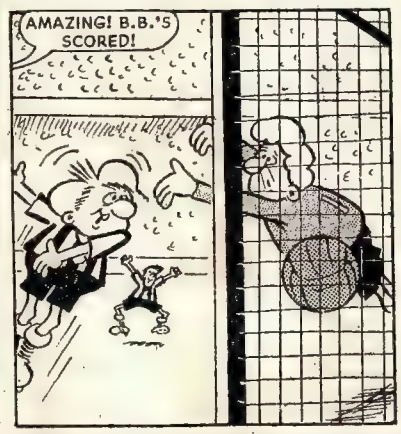

COO! BALL BOY LEFT THE FULL BACK STANDING, THERE!


OOOH! HARD LUCK, B.B.


HE NEATLY AVOIDED THAT SLIDING TACKLE! GREAT STUFF!

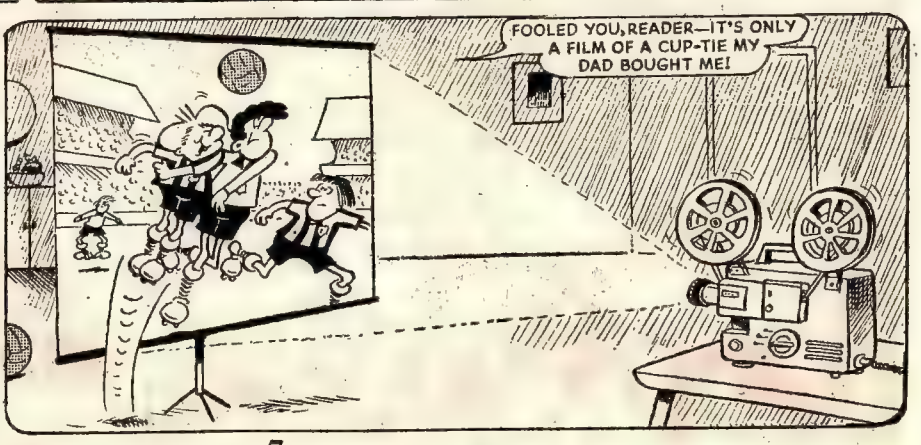
GASP! THAT WAS ANOTHER NEAR MISS!


JUST LOOK AT HIM OUT-JUMPING THOSE TALL DEFENDERS!

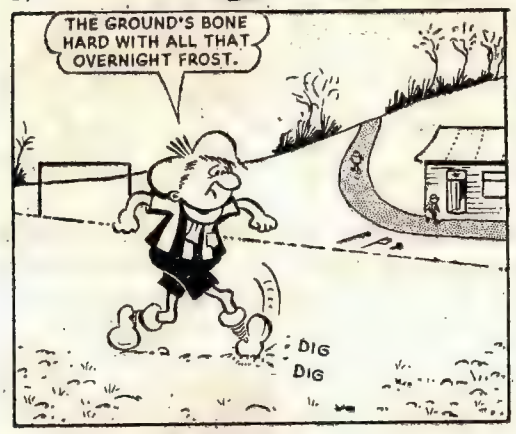

AMAZING! B.B.'S SCORED!

THE FANS ARE GOING WILD!

I DIDN'T REALISE YOU WERE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE FIRST DIVISION, B.B.!


FOOLED YOU, READER—IT'S ONLY A FILM OF A CUP-TIE MY DAD BOUGHT ME!

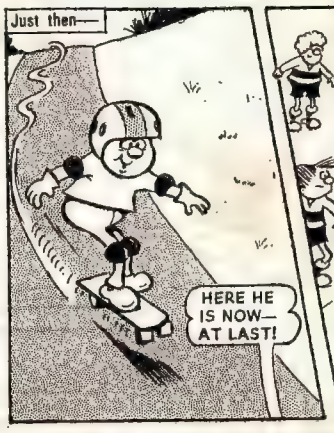
# BALL BOY

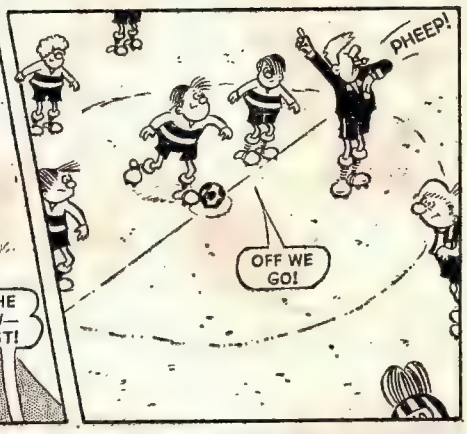

THE GROUND'S BONE HARD WITH ALL THAT OVERNIGHT FROST.
DIG
DIG

BETTER GET THE CORNER FLAGS SET UP!

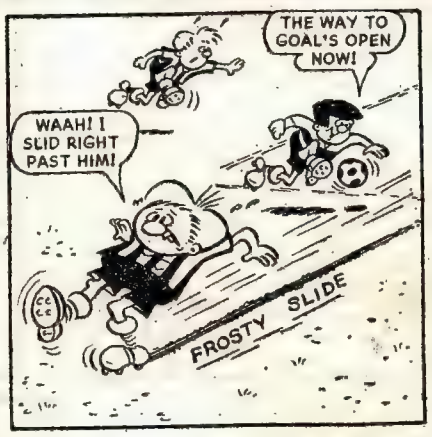
OOOOW!
BOING!
THE GROUND REALLY IS HARD!

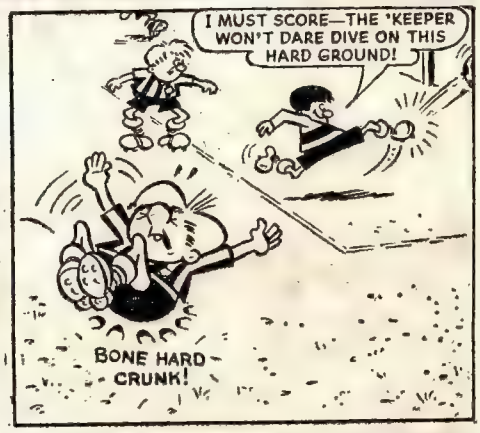
Soon—
TWO MINUTES TO KICK-OFF AND OUR 'KEEPER STILL HASN'T ARRIVED!
HOPE WE DON'T HAVE TO START WITHOUT HIM!


Just then—
HERE HE IS NOW— AT LAST!

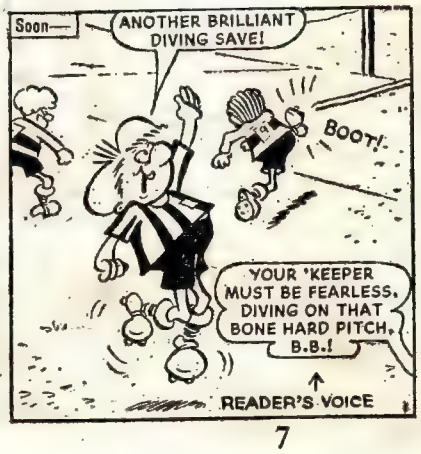

PHEEP!
OFF WE GO!

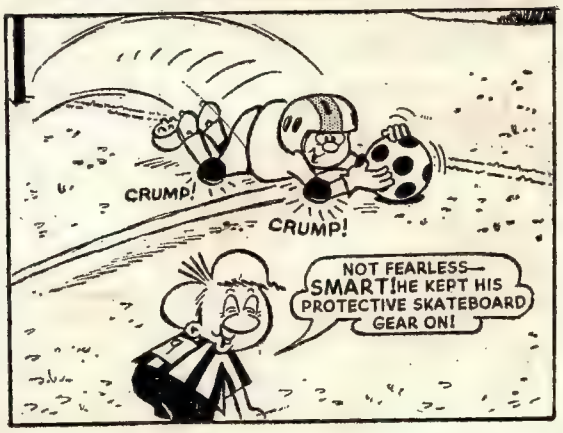
STOP HIM!
I'LL USE MY FAMOUS SLIDE TACKLE!


THE WAY TO GOAL'S OPEN NOW!
WAAH! I SLID RIGHT PAST HIM!
FROSTY SLIDE

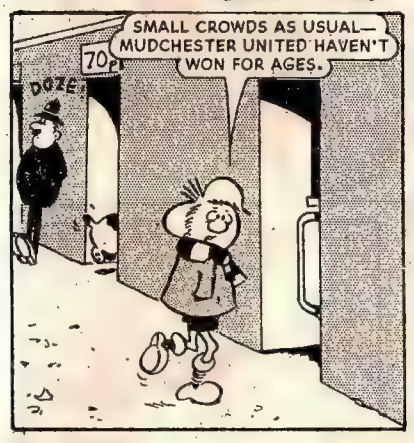

I MUST SCORE—THE 'KEEPER WON'T DARE DIVE ON THIS HARD GROUND!
BONE HARD—
CRUNK!

OH, GREAT DIVING SAVE, 'KEEPER!
BNO. 11.3.78

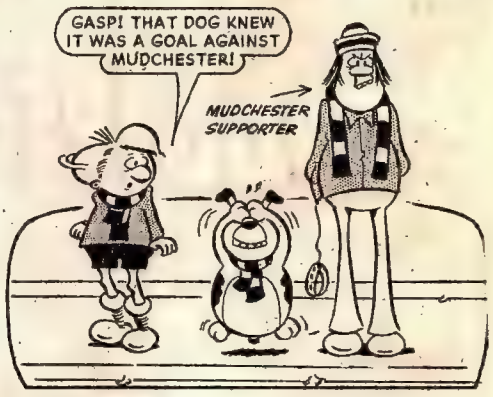

Soon—
ANOTHER BRILLIANT DIVING SAVE!
BOOT!
YOUR 'KEEPER MUST BE FEARLESS, DIVING ON THAT BONE HARD PITCH, B.B.!
READER'S VOICE


CRUMP!
CRUMP!
NOT FEARLESS— SMART! HE KEPT HIS PROTECTIVE SKATEBOARD GEAR ON!

# BALL BOY


SMALL CROWDS AS USUAL— MUDCHESTER UNITED HAVEN'T WON FOR AGES.
70p
DOZE

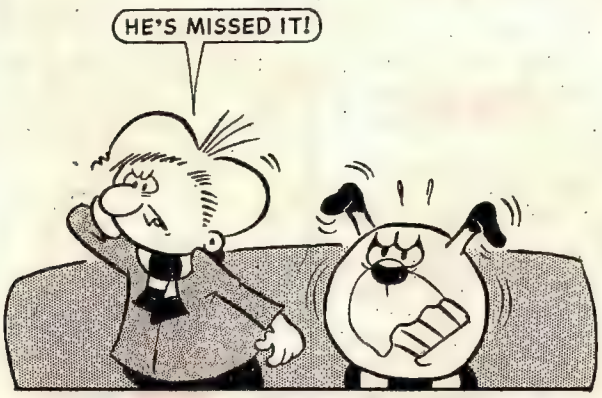
HUH! A GOAL DOWN ALREADY! THEY'RE A HOPELESS TEAM!


GASP! THAT DOG KNEW IT WAS A GOAL AGAINST MUDCHESTER!
MUDCHESTER SUPPORTER

Soon after—
BAH! THEY'VE LOST ANOTHER SOFT GOAL!

THAT DOG'S CERTAINLY UPSET AT MUDCHESTER'S PERFORMANCE!
GRR! GROWF! GRUFF!

Later—
A PENALTY!
WUFF!


HE'S MISSED IT!

COO!
YELP! WHINE! HOWL!

As the game goes on—
GRR! GRUFF! YAWP!

4-nil and time up—
GOSH! WHAT A MOST REMARKABLE DOG!
HOWL! WHINE! SNARL!

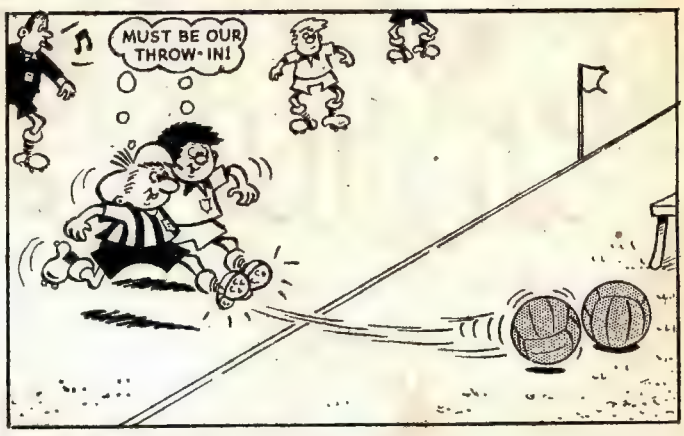
HEY, MISTER! I'LL BET YOUR DOG'S REALLY HAPPY WHEN MUDCHESTER WIN.
RIP
TEAR

I DON'T KNOW—I'VE ONLY BEEN BRINGING HIM HERE FOR FIVE YEARS!
GASP! TOLD YOU IT WAS AGES SINCE UNITED WON, READERS!
BAD-TEMPERED GROWL!

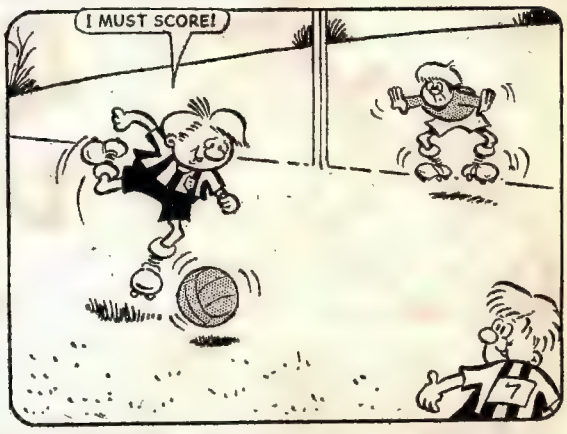
# BALL BOY

GOING TO PLAY TWO GAMES AT ONCE, BALL BOY?
READER'S VOICE

DON'T BE DAFT, READER. LAST WEEK OUR BALL BURST AND THE GAME WAS ABANDONED—IT WON'T HAPPEN THIS WEEK.


MUST BE OUR THROW-IN!

So—
PASS TO ME—THE DEFENDERS ARE RUNNING UPFIELD!

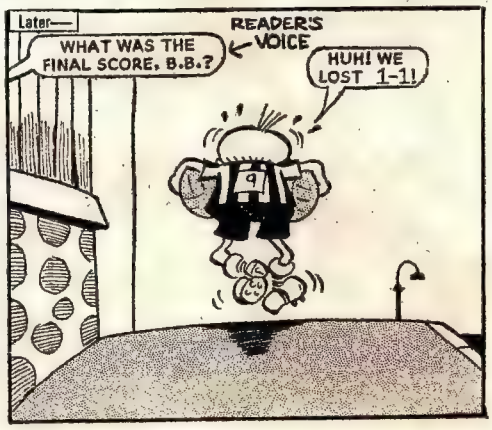

I MUST SCORE!

GOAL!
GOAL!
PHEEP!

Then—
WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT—WE SCORED!
NO, YOU DIDN'T—WE SCORED!

LET ME INSPECT THESE FOOTBALLS!

THEY USED THE CORRECT BALL—GOAL TO THEM!
BNO. 25.3.78.


Later—
WHAT WAS THE FINAL SCORE, B.B.?
READER'S VOICE
HUH! WE LOST 1-1!

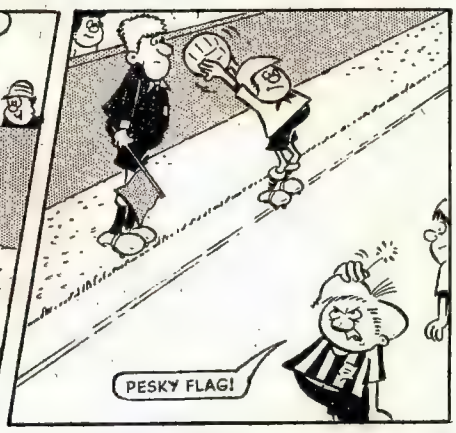
# BALL BOY

WE'RE PLAYING A SCHOOLS' CUP FINAL IN THIS STADIUM TODAY, READERS—I'M HOPING TO HAVE A GREAT GAME!

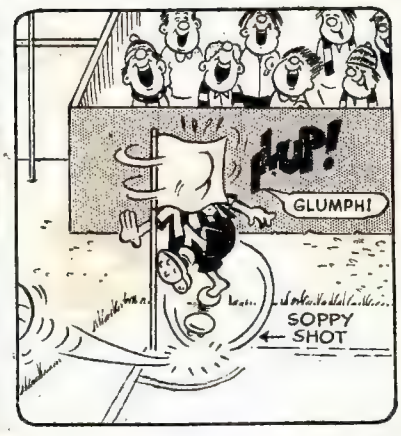
During the game—
WHAT A RUN DOWN THE WING!

OUT!
NO, IT WASN'T!

IT WAS! OOPS —SORRY!
BOX!


PESKY FLAG!

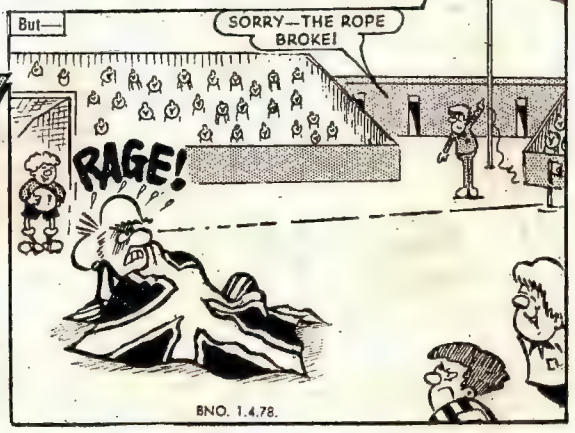
Later—
NOW FOR ONE OF MY CURLING CORNER KICKS!


PLUP!
GLUMPH!
SOPPY SHOT

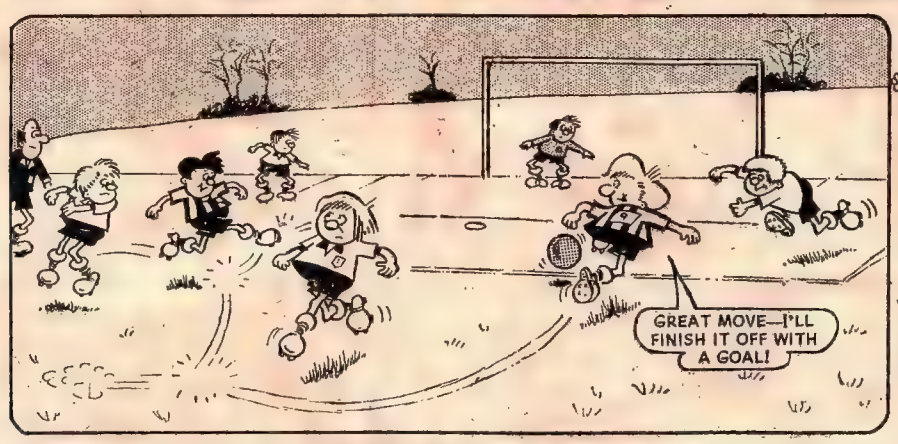
SNARL! MORE FLAG TROUBLE! THE 'KEEPER SAVED THAT SHOT EASILY!

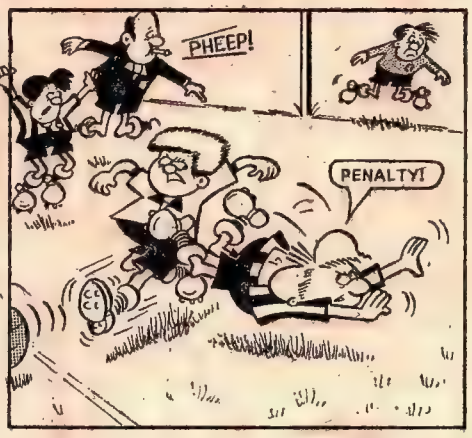
Later—
ONLY THE GOALIE TO BEAT—THIS MUST BE THE WINNER!

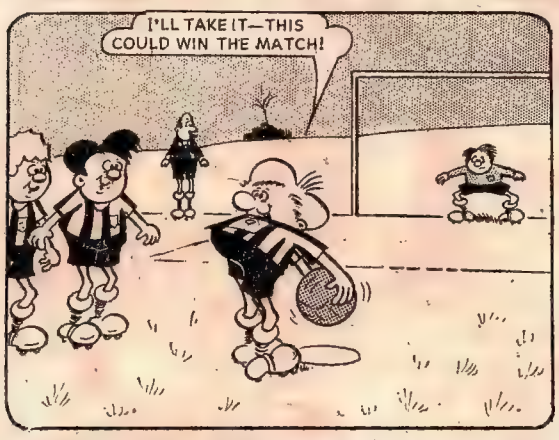
PLUP!


But—
SORRY—THE ROPE BROKE!
RAGE!
BNO. 1.4.78.

# BALL BOY

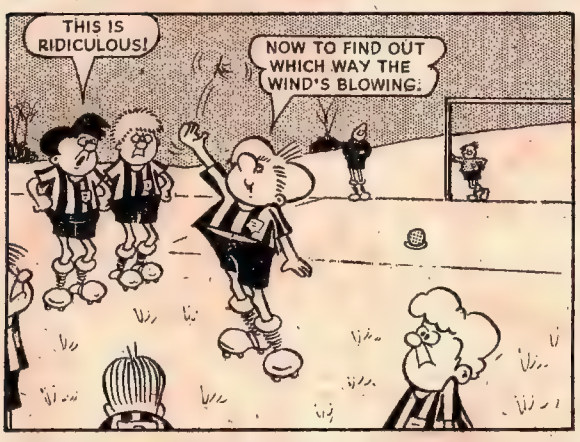

GREAT MOVE—I'LL FINISH IT OFF WITH A GOAL!


PHEEP!
PENALTY!


I'LL TAKE IT—THIS COULD WIN THE MATCH!

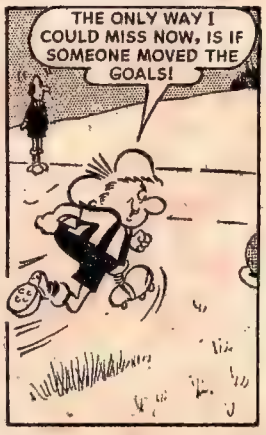
MUST MAKE SURE MY LACES ARE TIGHT . . .

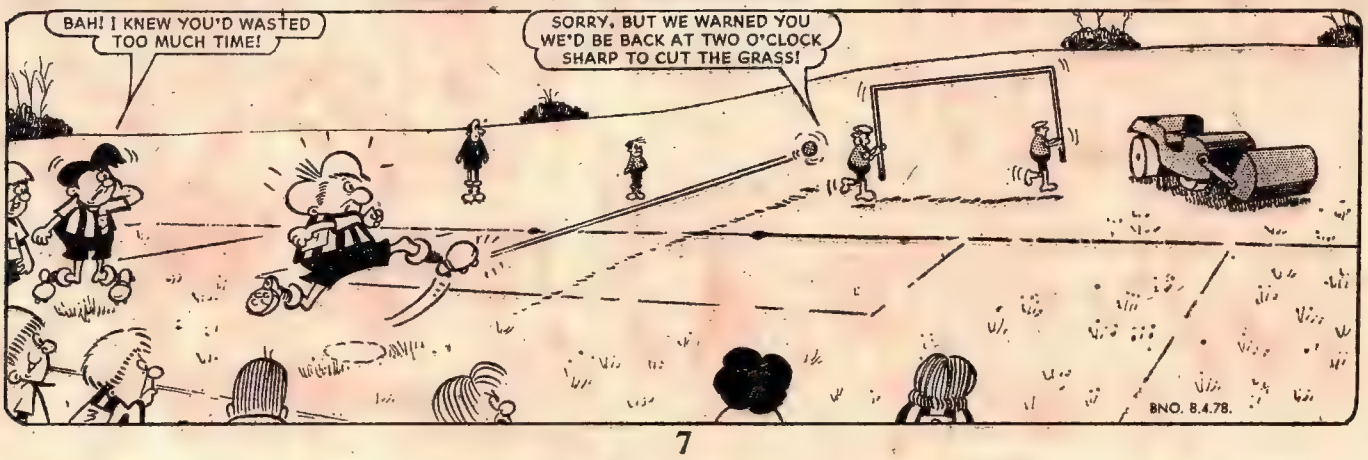
. . . AND THERE'S NO MUD ON THE BALL.
RUB! RUB!


THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
NOW TO FIND OUT WHICH WAY THE WIND'S BLOWING.

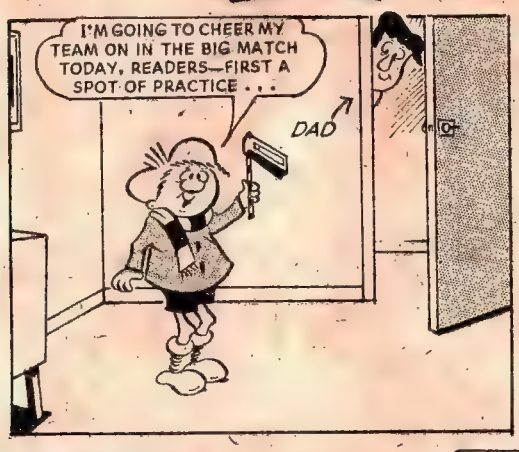
I'LL JUST LOOSEN OFF MY MUSCLES, SO I DON'T GET CRAMP ON THE RUN-UP.

HERE! I'LL TAKE IT!
OH, NO—I'VE PREPARED VERY CAREFULLY FOR THIS KICK!


THE ONLY WAY I COULD MISS NOW, IS IF SOMEONE MOVED THE GOALS!


BAH! I KNEW YOU'D WASTED TOO MUCH TIME!
SORRY, BUT WE WARNED YOU WE'D BE BACK AT TWO O'CLOCK SHARP TO CUT THE GRASS!
BNO. 8.4.78.

# BALL BOY


I'M GOING TO CHEER MY TEAM ON IN THE BIG MATCH TODAY, READERS—FIRST A SPOT OF PRACTICE . . .
DAD

COME ON, UNITED!

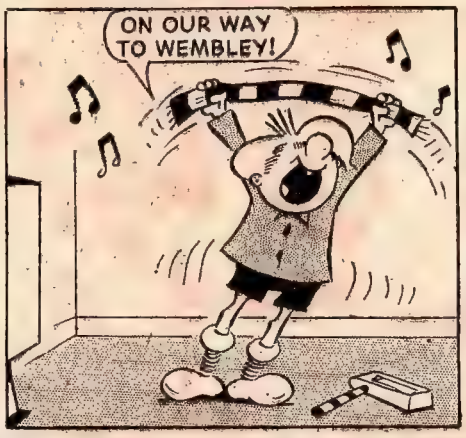
WE'RE GOING TO WIN THE CUP . . .

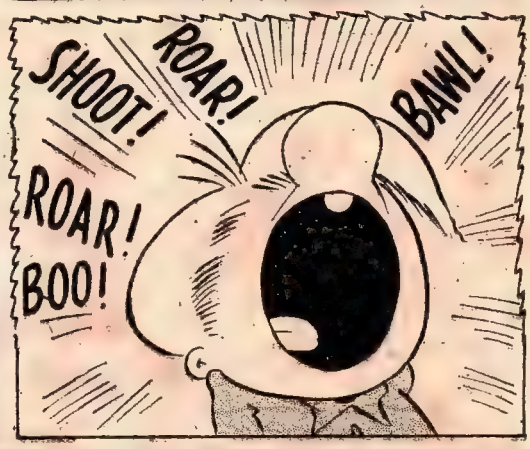
WE ARE THE PEOPLE!

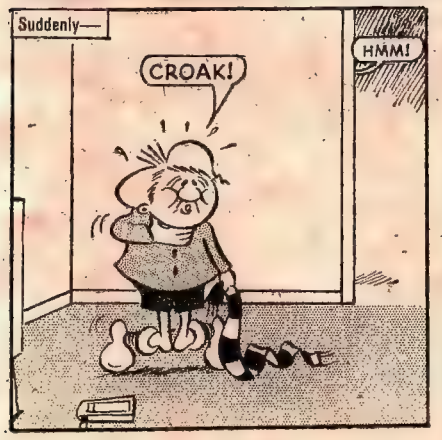
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE!

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

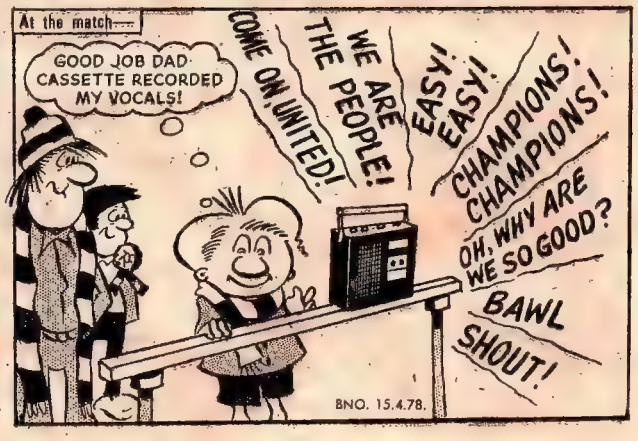
OH, WHY ARE WE SO GOOD?


ON OUR WAY TO WEMBLEY!

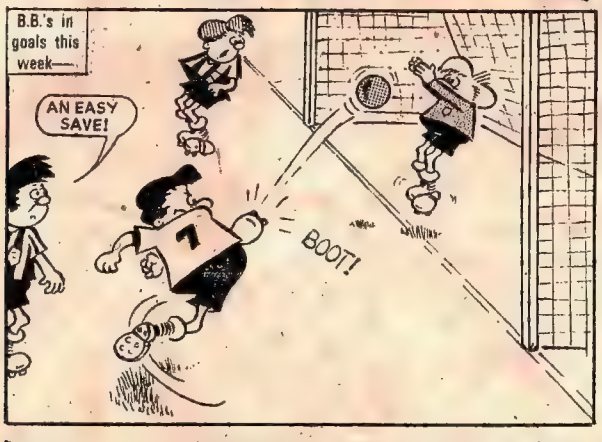

SHOOT!
ROAR!
BAWL!
ROAR!
BOO!

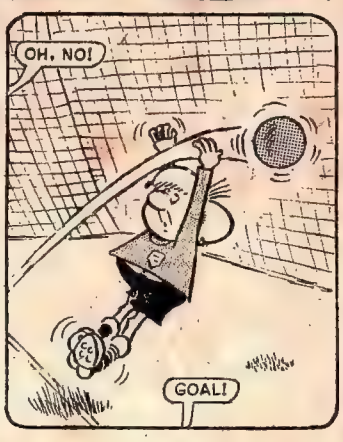

Suddenly—
CROAK!
HMM!

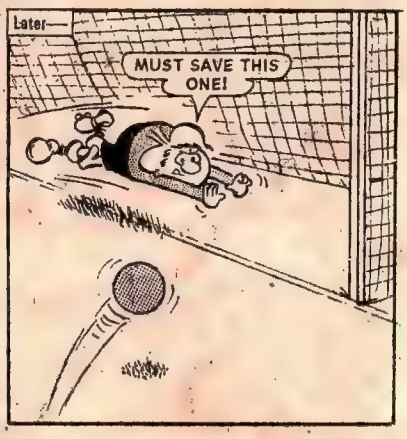
I THOUGHT YOU'D LOSE YOUR VOICE, SON—BUT DON'T WORRY . . .
CROAK!

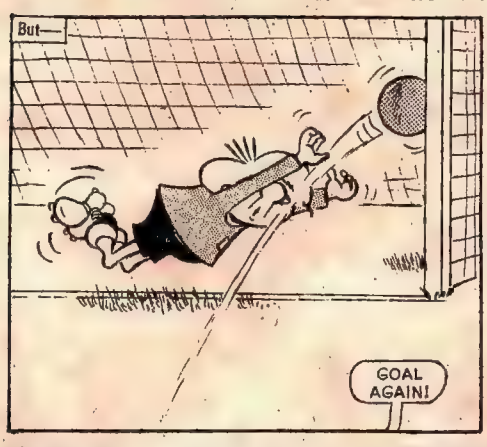

At the match—
GOOD JOB DAD CASSETTE RECORDED MY VOCALS!
COME ON, UNITED!
WE ARE THE PEOPLE!
EASY! EASY!
CHAMPIONS! CHAMPIONS!
OH, WHY ARE WE SO GOOD?
BAWL
SHOUT!
BNO. 15.4.78.

# BALL BOY


B.B.'s in goals this week—
AN EASY SAVE!
BOOT!

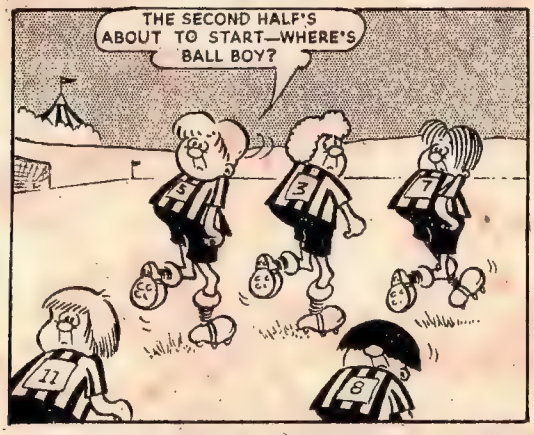

OH, NO!
GOAL!


Later—
MUST SAVE THIS ONE!


But—
GOAL AGAIN!

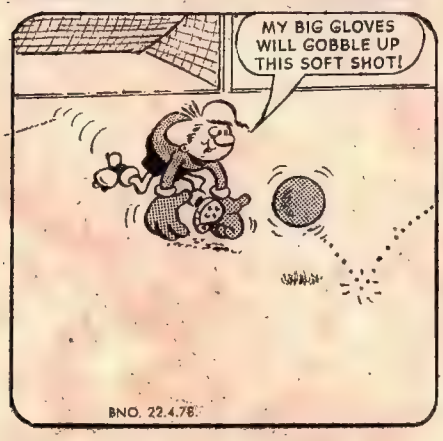
At half time—
YOUR HANDS ARE TOO SMALL FOR A GOOD GOALKEEPER, B.B.!
HMM! THEY ARE A BIT TINY.

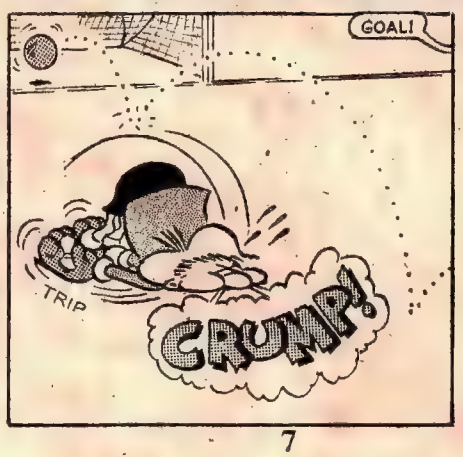
I'M OFF TO VISIT THE CIRCUS IN THE NEXT FIELD.
DRESSING ROOM


THE SECOND HALF'S ABOUT TO START—WHERE'S BALL BOY?

HERE I AM—I'VE BEEN BORROWING THE CLOWN'S GLOVES!

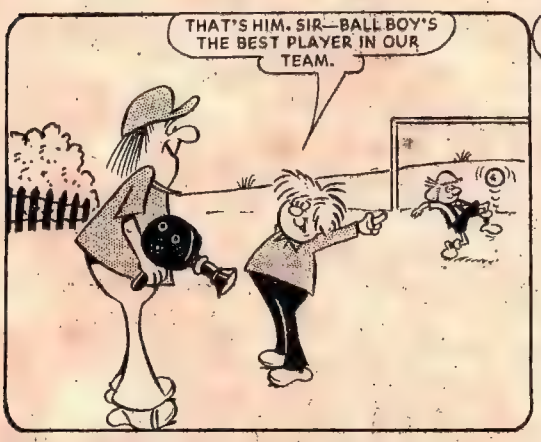
NO WORRIES ABOUT SMALL HANDS NOW!

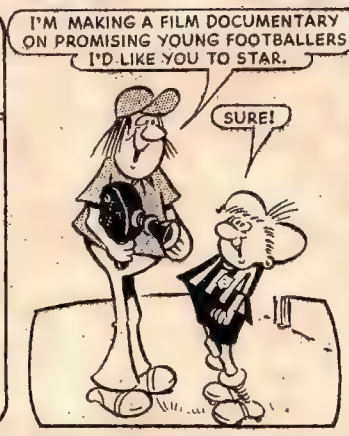

MY BIG GLOVES WILL GOBBLE UP THIS SOFT SHOT!
BNO. 22.4.78.

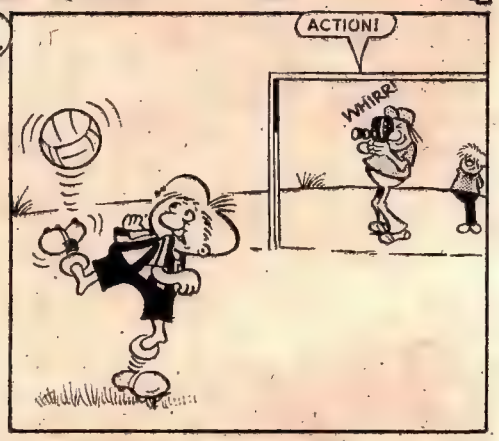

GOAL!
TRIP
CRUMP!

IT'S HANDY HAVING A DAFT KEEPER LIKE THAT AGAINST US!
HUH! YOUR HANDS ARE TOO BIG NOW!

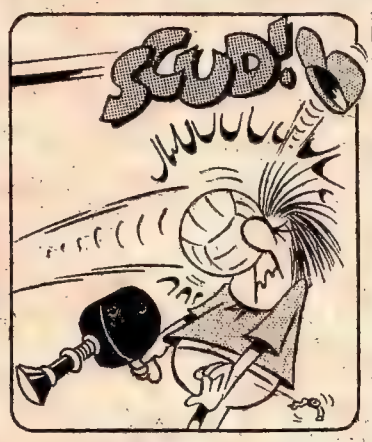
# BALL BOY


THAT'S HIM, SIR—BALL BOY'S THE BEST PLAYER IN OUR TEAM.

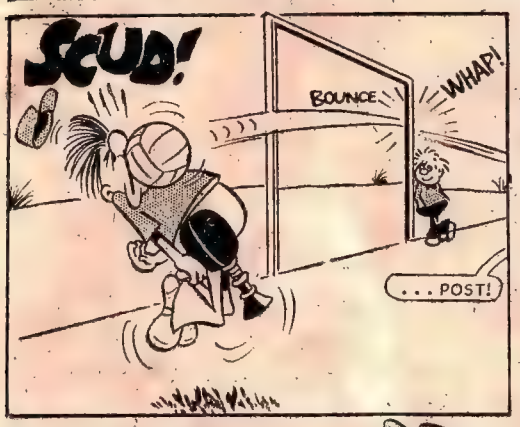

I'M MAKING A FILM DOCUMENTARY ON PROMISING YOUNG FOOTBALLERS. I'D LIKE YOU TO STAR.
SURE!

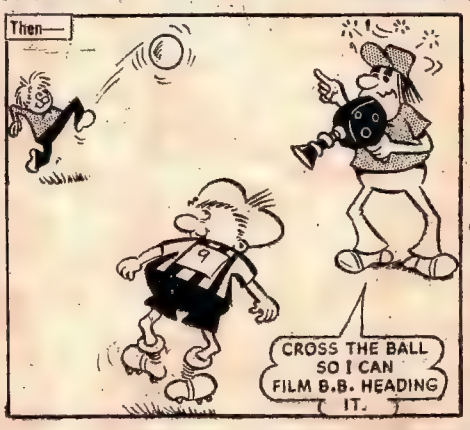

ACTION!
WHIRR!

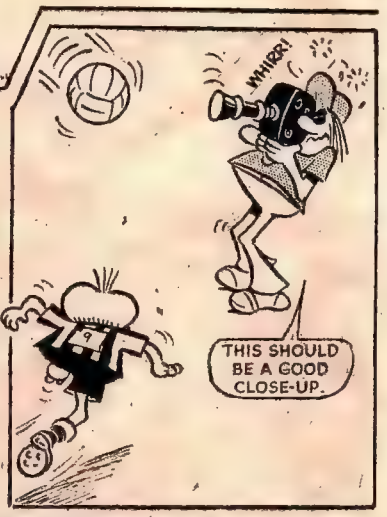
THAT'S IT—NOW HIT THE BALL FOR GOAL!
WHIRR!

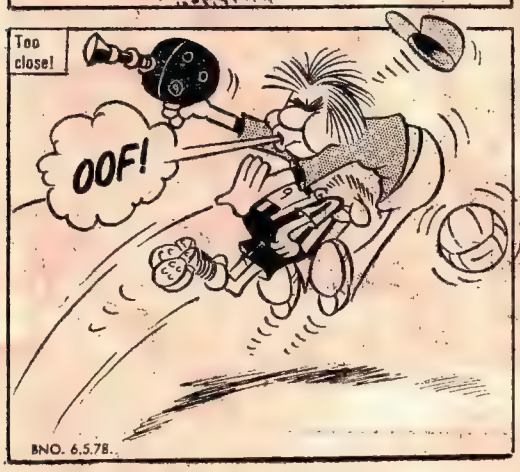

SCUD!

Shortly—
IT'LL BE SAFER FROM THIS ANGLE!
THAT'S GOING TO HIT THE . . .

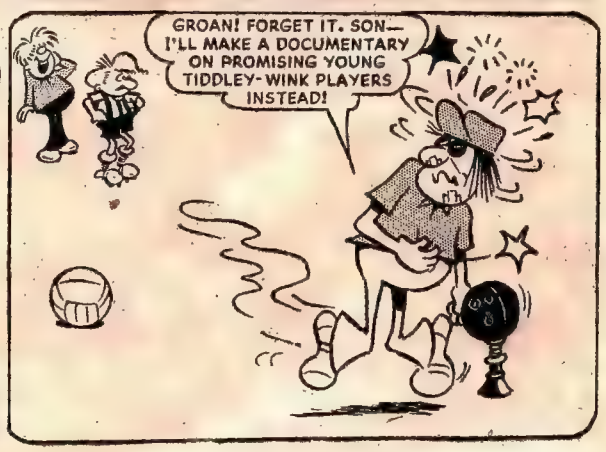

SCUD!
BOUNCE
WHAP!
. . . POST!


Then—
CROSS THE BALL SO I CAN FILM B.B. HEADING IT.


WHIRR!
THIS SHOULD BE A GOOD CLOSE-UP.

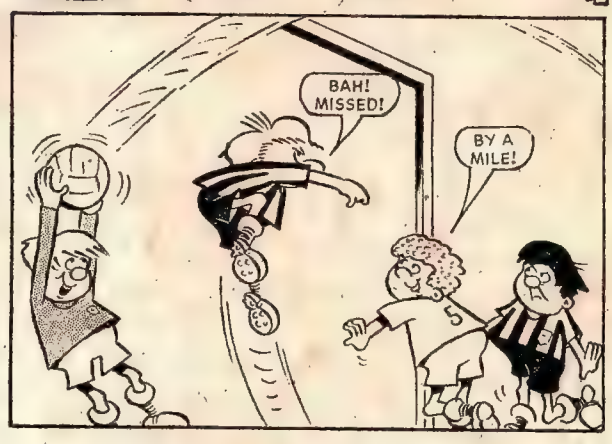

Too close!
OOF!
BNO. 6.5.78.

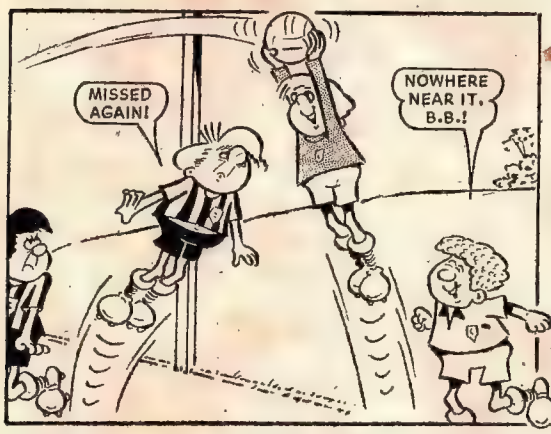
WHAT D'YOU WANT ME TO DO NEXT, MISTER?

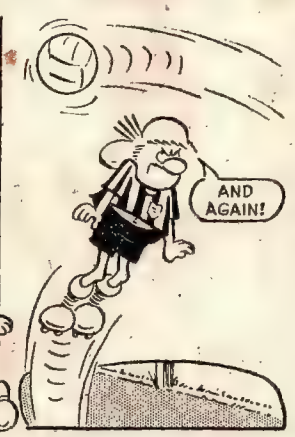

GROAN! FORGET IT, SON—I'LL MAKE A DOCUMENTARY ON PROMISING YOUNG TIDDLEY-WINK PLAYERS INSTEAD!

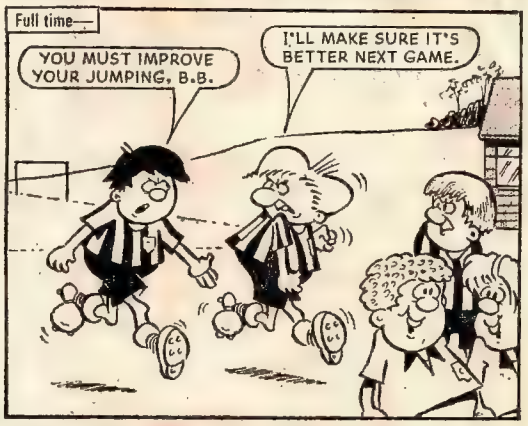
# BALL BOY

LEAVE THIS TO ME, PALS —I'LL HEAD IT PAST THE 'KEEPER!

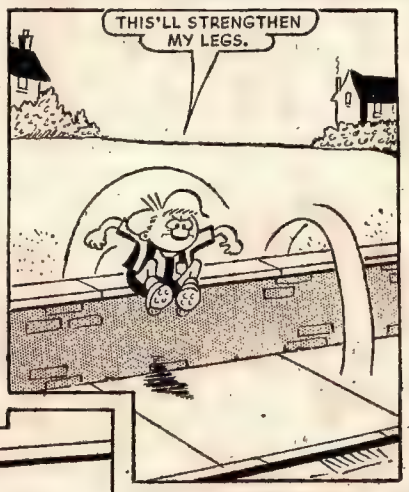

BAH! MISSED!
BY A MILE!

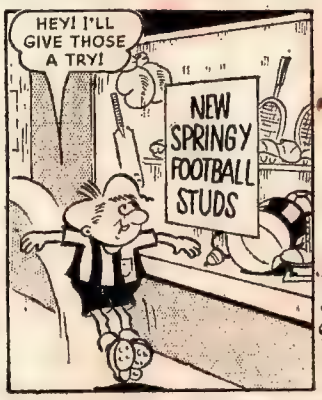

MISSED AGAIN!
NOWHERE NEAR IT, B.B.!


AND AGAIN!

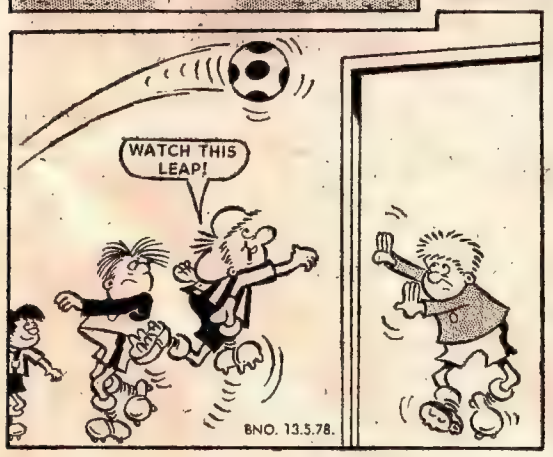

Full time—
YOU MUST IMPROVE YOUR JUMPING, B.B.
I'LL MAKE SURE IT'S BETTER NEXT GAME.

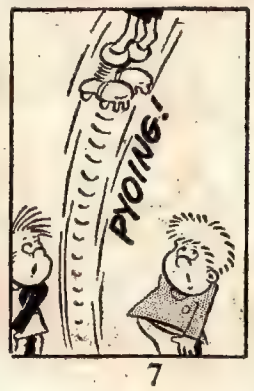
On the way home—
BALL BOY MUST'VE HAD JUMPING BEANS FOR DINNER!
ALL I'VE GOT TO PRACTISE IS MY JUMPING.

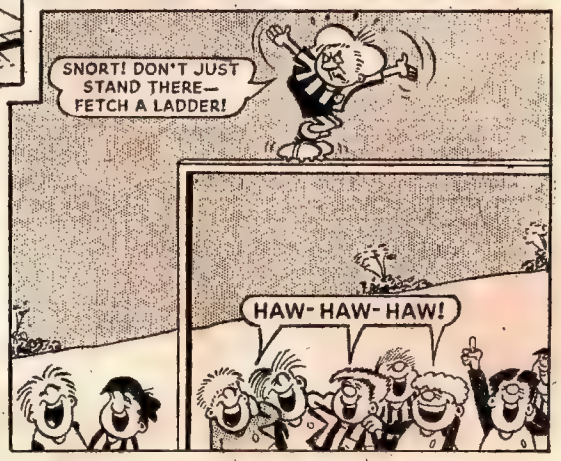

THIS'LL STRENGTHEN MY LEGS.


HEY! I'LL GIVE THOSE A TRY!
NEW SPRINGY FOOTBALL STUDS

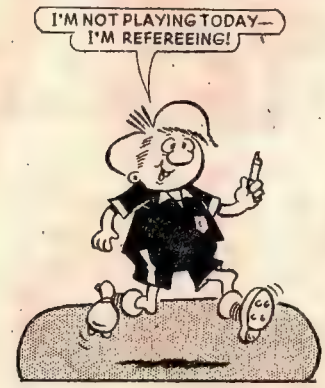
Before the next match—
GOALKEEPERS, BEWARE!


WATCH THIS LEAP!
BNO. 13.5.78.


PYOING!


SNORT! DON'T JUST STAND THERE— FETCH A LADDER!
HAW-HAW-HAW!

# BALL BOY


I'M NOT PLAYING TODAY— I'M REFEREEING!

So—
HEADS, WE KICK OFF.

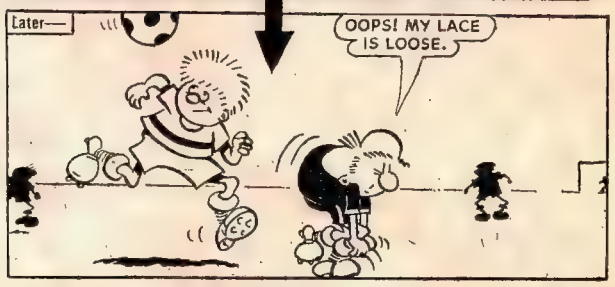
OOOH! THE COIN'S GONE DOWN MY NECK—IT'S C-C-COLD!
OUCH!
CAREFUL, REF!

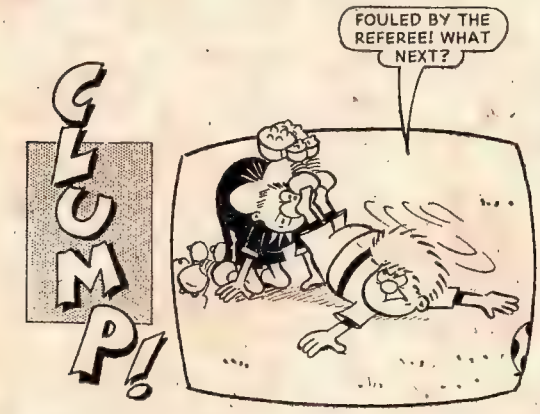
Soon—
WHAT A CHANCE!

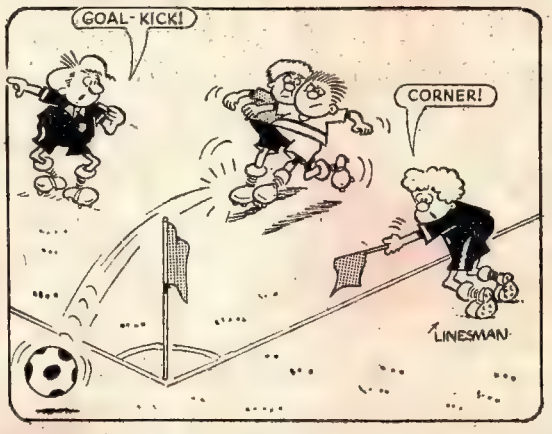
GOAL—AW, REF! GET OUT OF THE WAY!

THAT WAS A FOUL—I'LL BLOW MY WHISTLE!
KICK

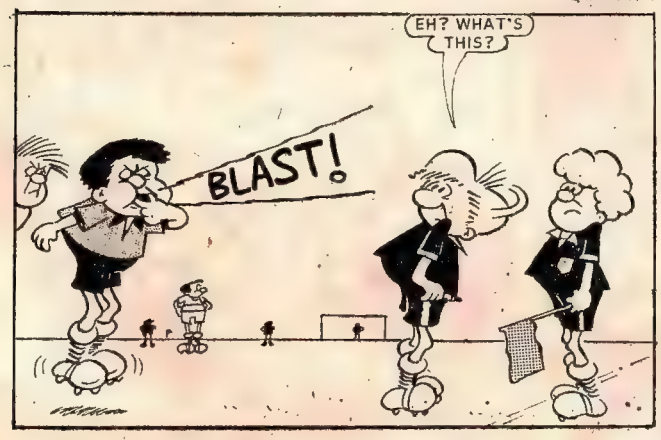
YEEOW! WATCH IT, REF!
PHOOOOOH!

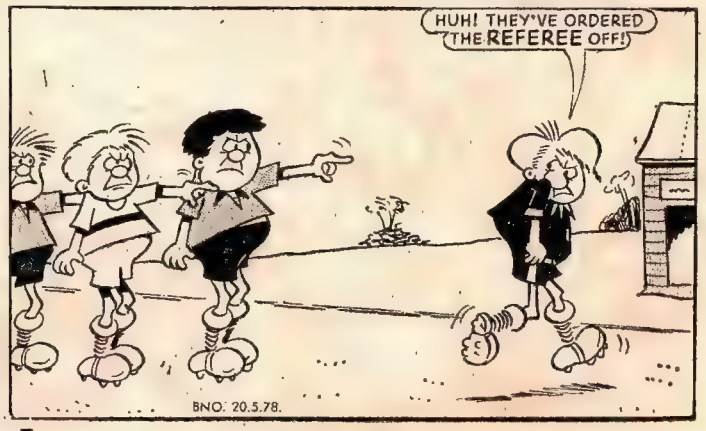

Later—
OOPS! MY LACE IS LOOSE.


CLUMP!
FOULED BY THE REFEREE! WHAT NEXT?

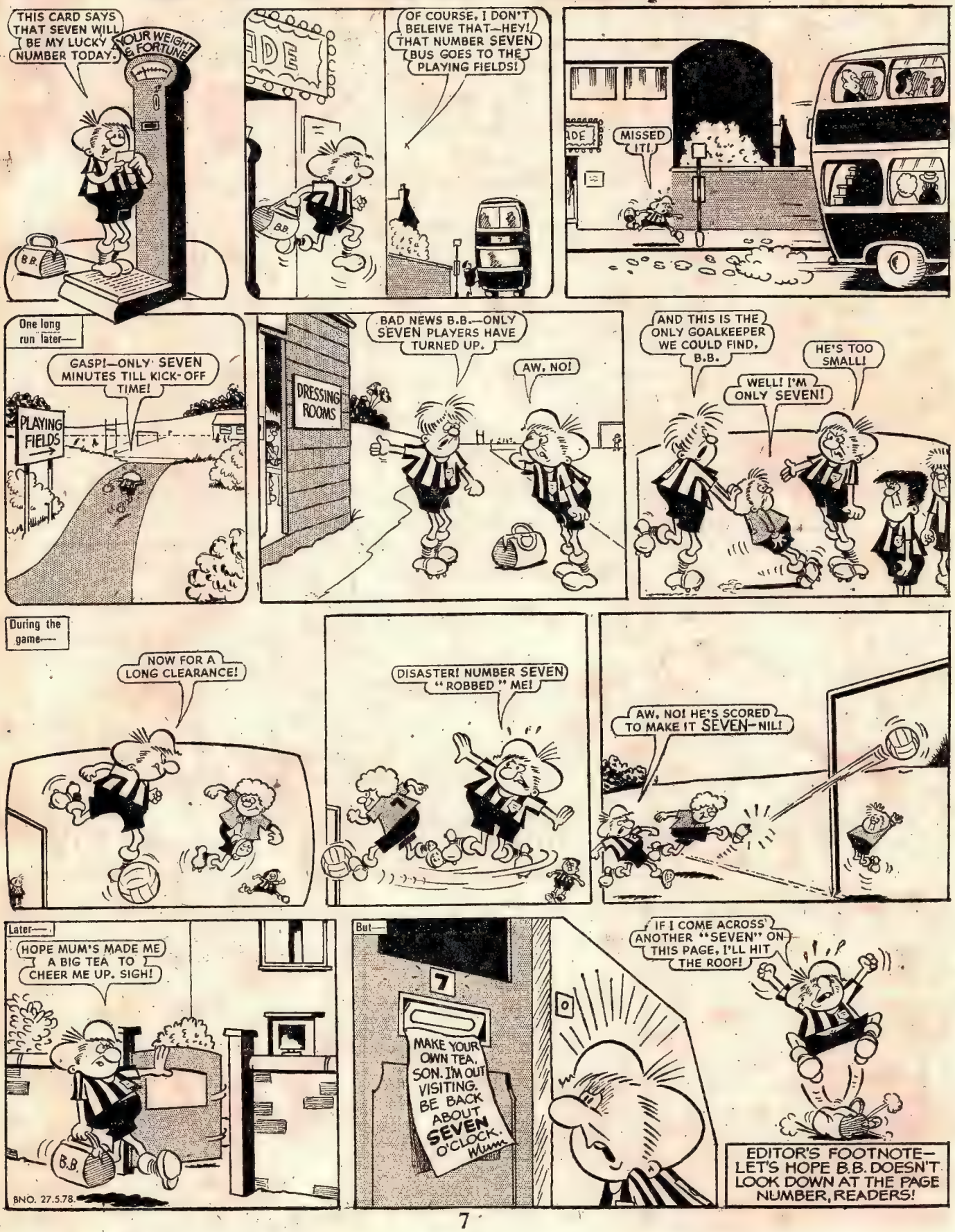

GOAL-KICK!
CORNER!
LINESMAN

GOAL-KICK!
CORNER!
GOAL-KICK!
CORNER!
CORNER!


BLAST!
EH? WHAT'S THIS?


HUH! THEY'VE ORDERED THE REFEREE OFF!
BNO: 20.5.78.

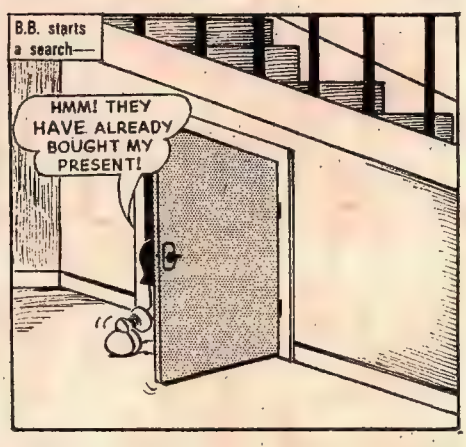
# BALL BOY

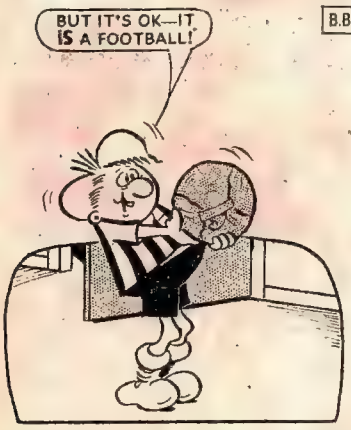

THIS CARD SAYS THAT SEVEN WILL BE MY LUCKY NUMBER TODAY.
YOUR WEIGHT & FORTUNE
B.B.
OF COURSE, I DON'T BELEIVE THAT—HEY! THAT NUMBER SEVEN BUS GOES TO THE PLAYING FIELDS!
MISSED IT!
One long run later—
GASP!—ONLY SEVEN MINUTES TILL KICK-OFF TIME!
PLAYING FIELDS
BAD NEWS B.B.—ONLY SEVEN PLAYERS HAVE TURNED UP.
DRESSING ROOMS
AW, NO!
AND THIS IS THE ONLY GOALKEEPER WE COULD FIND, B.B.
HE'S TOO SMALL!
WELL! I'M ONLY SEVEN!
During the game—
NOW FOR A LONG CLEARANCE!
DISASTER! NUMBER SEVEN "ROBBED" ME!
AW, NO! HE'S SCORED TO MAKE IT SEVEN-NIL!
Later—
HOPE MUM'S MADE ME A BIG TEA TO CHEER ME UP. SIGH!
B.B.
BNO. 27.5.78.
But—
7
MAKE YOUR OWN TEA, SON. I'M OUT VISITING. BE BACK ABOUT SEVEN O'CLOCK. Mum
IF I COME ACROSS ANOTHER "SEVEN" ON THIS PAGE, I'LL HIT THE ROOF!
EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE— LET'S HOPE B.B. DOESN'T LOOK DOWN AT THE PAGE NUMBER, READERS!

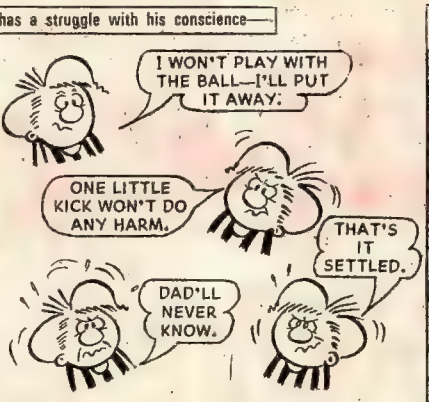
# BALL BOY

MY OLD FOOTBALL'S A BIT PAST IT—I WOULDN'T MIND GETTING A NEW ONE FOR MY BIRTHDAY TOMORROW.
TOO LATE, SON—YOUR PRESENT'S ALREADY BOUGHT.

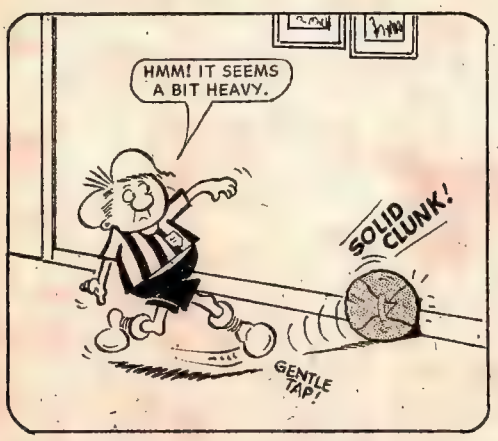
I WONDER IF DAD'S JUST SAYING THAT?

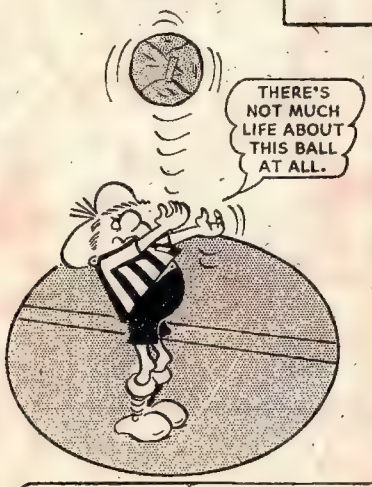

B.B. starts a search—
HMM! THEY HAVE ALREADY BOUGHT MY PRESENT!

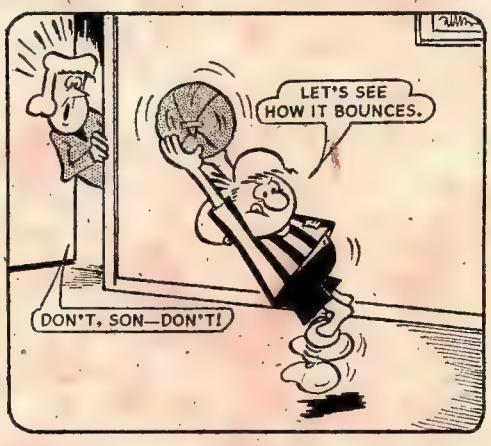

BUT IT'S OK—IT IS A FOOTBALL!

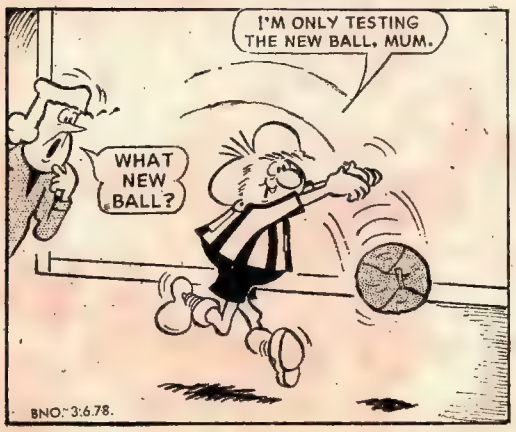

B.B. has a struggle with his conscience—
I WON'T PLAY WITH THE BALL—I'LL PUT IT AWAY.
ONE LITTLE KICK WON'T DO ANY HARM.
THAT'S IT SETTLED.
DAD'LL NEVER KNOW.

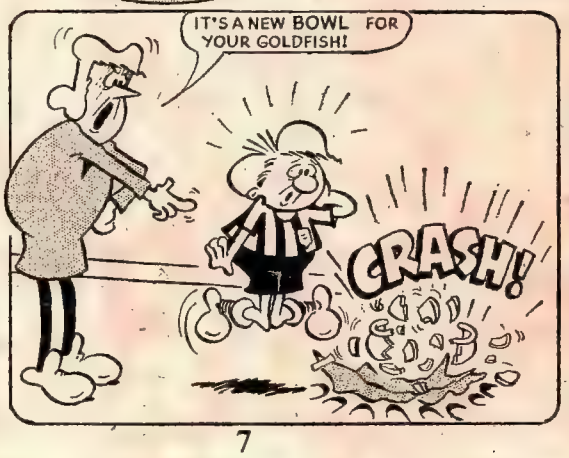
B.B.'s conscience loses, after extra-time—
I WON'T UNWRAP IT.


HMM! IT SEEMS A BIT HEAVY.
SOLID CLUNK!
GENTLE TAP!


THERE'S NOT MUCH LIFE ABOUT THIS BALL AT ALL.


LET'S SEE HOW IT BOUNCES.
DON'T, SON—DON'T!


I'M ONLY TESTING THE NEW BALL, MUM.
WHAT NEW BALL?
BNO: 3.6.78.


IT'S A NEW BOWL FOR YOUR GOLDFISH!
CRASH!

I'M STUCK IN HERE FOR ANOTHER YEAR!
EDITOR'S VOICE
DAD'S DECIDED TO GIVE YOU A NEW BALL AFTER ALL, B.B.!

# BALL BOY

MY TEAM'S BALL CONTROL ISN'T VERY GOOD!
MISSED
TRIP
THOSE DUSTBINS GIVE ME AN IDEA!
B.B.'S DAD
I'M HOPING TO IMPROVE MY TEAM'S DRIBBLING, DAD!
I WISH YOU LUCK, SON!
PRETEND THE BINS ARE OPPONENTS—TRY TO WEAVE ROUND THEM, DIMMY!
RIGHT O!
WITH THE BALL, DIMMY!
EASY!
Next—
OH, NO!
OOPS!
CLANG!
Then—
HOPELESS!
And—
NO! NO! NO!
CLUMP!
WHAT A USELESS TEAM THIS IS!
THUD!
BAD TEMPERED KICK
OOPS! MISSED IT!
HUH!
Later—
HOW'S THE PRACTISING GOING, SON?
BADLY, DAD—THE DUSTBINS ARE WINNING 1—0!
BNO. 10.6.78.

# BALL BOY

YOUR JOB IN THIS MATCH IS TO MARK BALL BOY! STAY WITH HIM ALL THE TIME!

LEAVE IT TO ME— I'LL STICK TO HIM CLOSER THAN HIS OWN SHADOW!

Soon—

HUH! WE'VE BEEN PLAYING FOR TEN MINUTES AND I HAVEN'T HAD A PASS, YET!

JUST CAN'T SHAKE HIM OFF! IF I WENT FOR A FISH SUPPER HE'D PROBABLY FOLLOW ME!

NOBODY WILL PASS TO ME, I'M SO TIGHTLY MARKED!

MAYBE THIS WILL WORK!

THUD!

OUCH!

OOF!

TO ME—I'M UNMARKED!

OH, NO, YOU DON'T! THE MATCH IS STOPPED UNTIL I'M FULLY IN CHARGE AGAIN!

HUH! THAT DIDN'T WORK!

MAYBE THIS WILL . . .

WHOOPS! CLUMSY ME! I'D BETTER STAND THE CORNER FLAG BACK UP!

PUSH

KICK

BNO. 17.6.78.

IT WORKED! YIPPEE! I'M FREE!

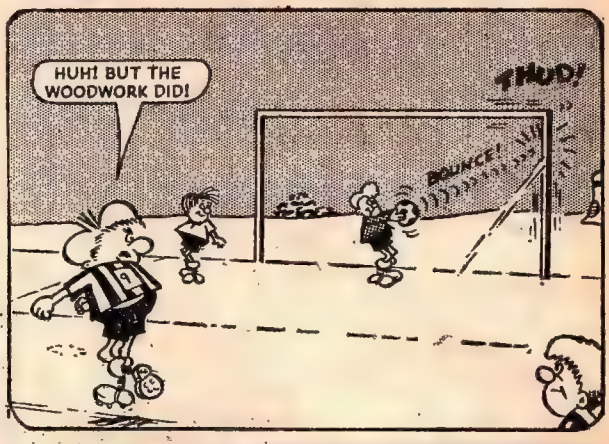
GOAL!

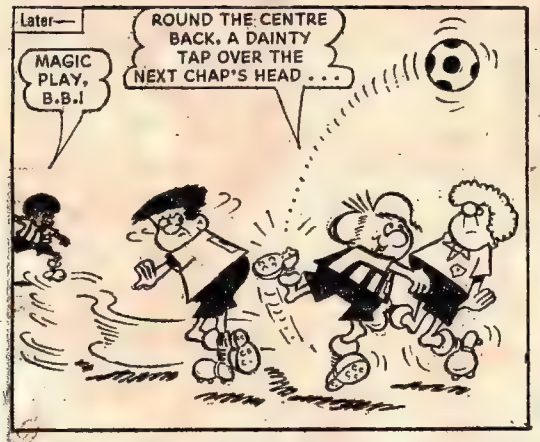
REFEREE!

# BALL BOY

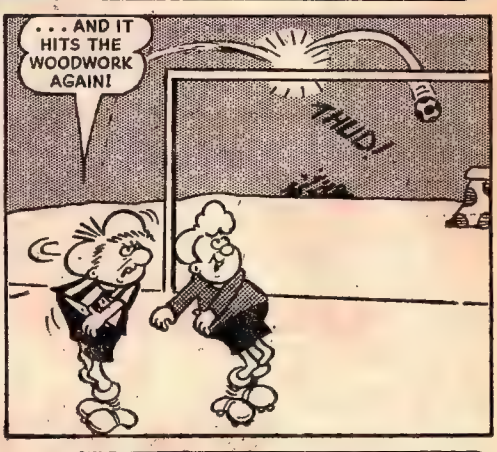
CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY FIRST TOUCH OF THE BALL—I FEEL IN FORM TODAY!

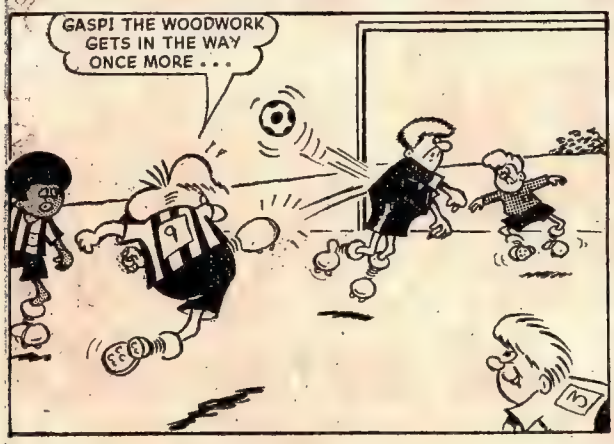
GREAT SHOT—THE GOALIE WON'T STOP THAT ONE!
WHOOOF!
THUD!


HUH! BUT THE WOODWORK DID!
THUD!
BOUNCE!

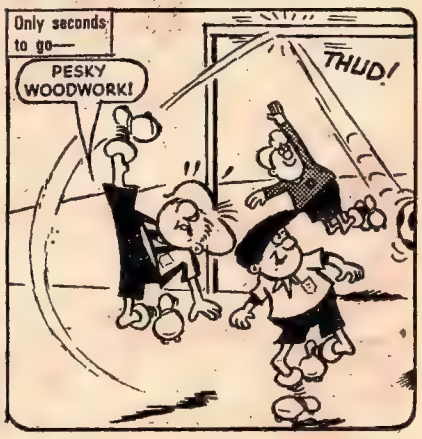

Later—
MAGIC PLAY, B.B.!
ROUND THE CENTRE BACK, A DAINTY TAP OVER THE NEXT CHAP'S HEAD . . .

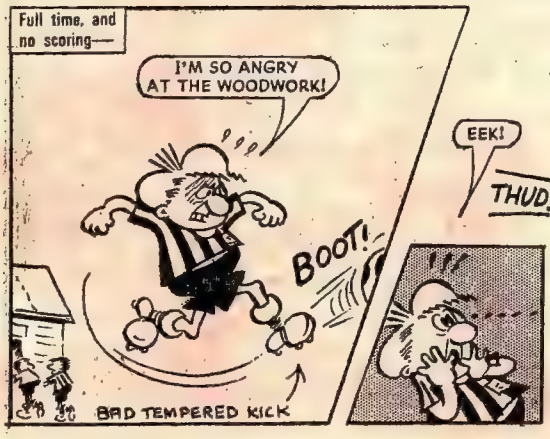
. . . A POWERFUL HEADER . . .
WUP!

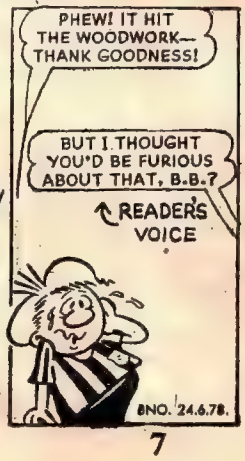

. . . AND IT HITS THE WOODWORK AGAIN!
THUD!

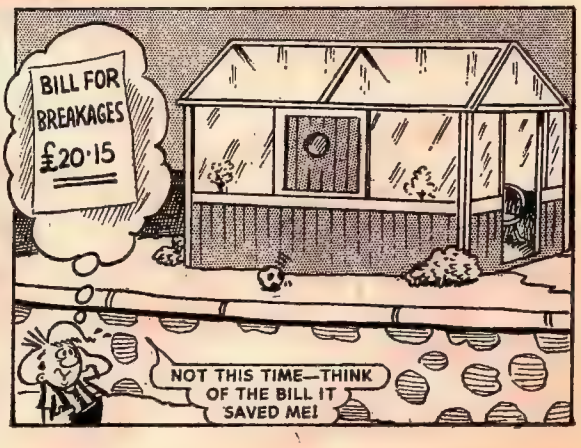

GASP! THE WOODWORK GETS IN THE WAY ONCE MORE . . .

. . . THE WOODWORK TEACHER, THAT IS—HE'S OUR REF!
SORRY, B.B.!

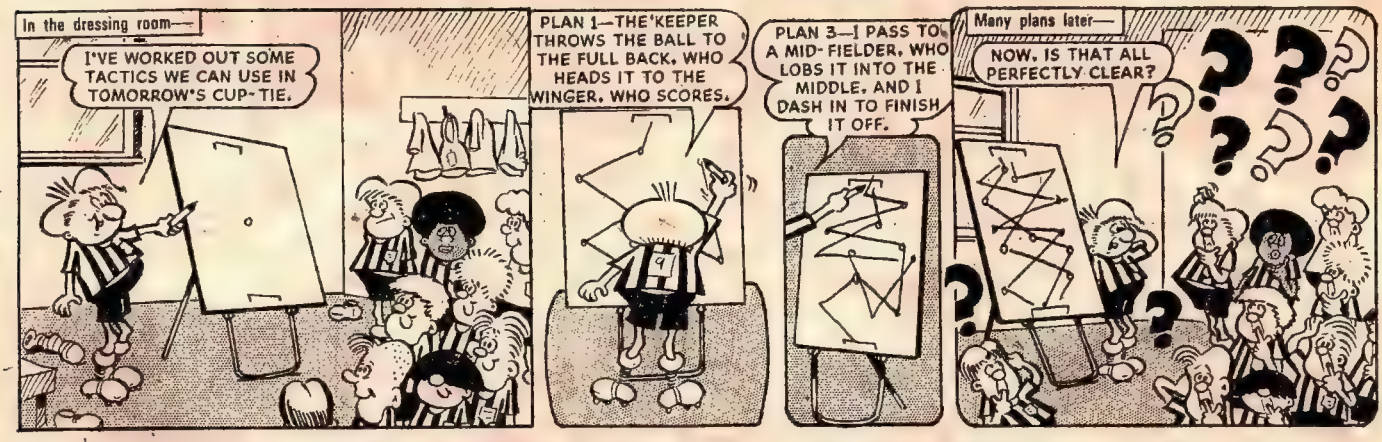

Only seconds to go—
PESKY WOODWORK!
THUD!

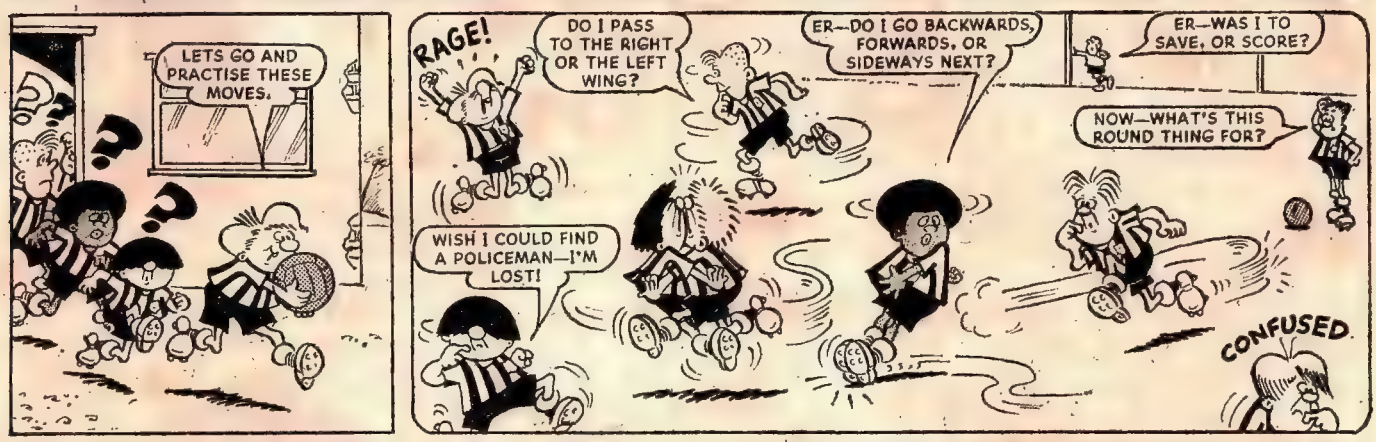

Full time, and no scoring—
I'M SO ANGRY AT THE WOODWORK!
BOOT!
BAD TEMPERED KICK
EEK!
THUD!

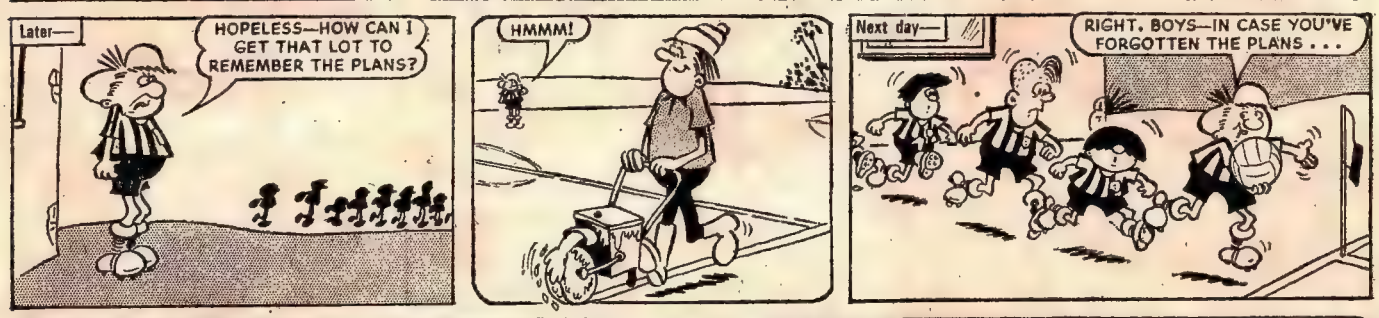

PHEW! IT HIT THE WOODWORK—THANK GOODNESS!
BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D BE FURIOUS ABOUT THAT, B.B.?
READER'S VOICE
8NO. 24.6.78.

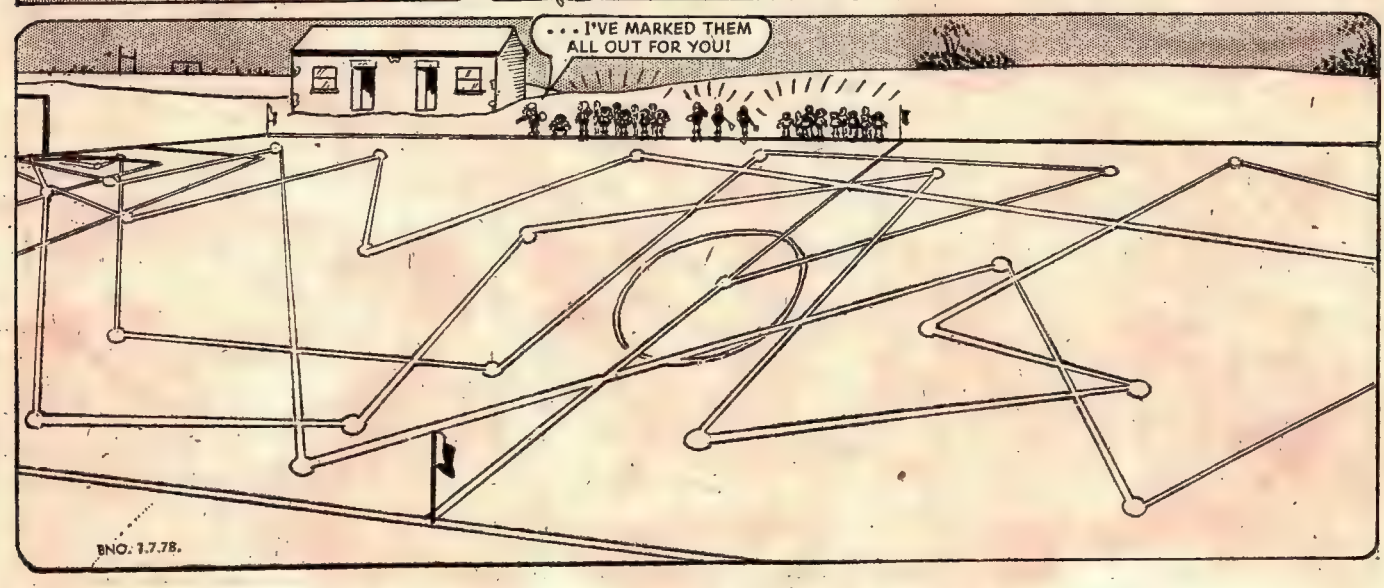

BILL FOR BREAKAGES £20·15
NOT THIS TIME—THINK OF THE BILL IT SAVED ME!

# BALL BOY

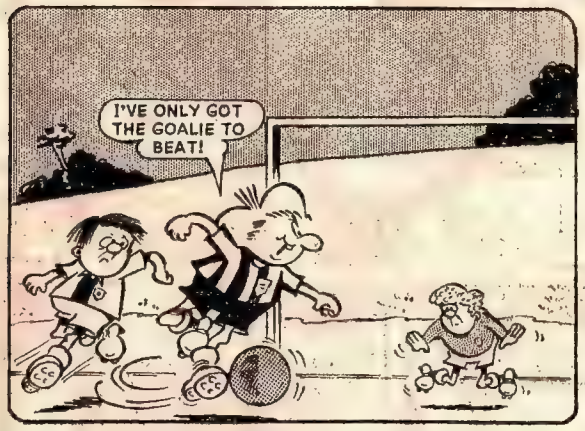

In the dressing room—
I'VE WORKED OUT SOME TACTICS WE CAN USE IN TOMORROW'S CUP-TIE.
PLAN 1—THE 'KEEPER THROWS THE BALL TO THE FULL BACK, WHO HEADS IT TO THE WINGER, WHO SCORES.
PLAN 3—I PASS TO A MID-FIELDER, WHO LOBS IT INTO THE MIDDLE, AND I DASH IN TO FINISH IT OFF.
Many plans later—
NOW, IS THAT ALL PERFECTLY CLEAR?


LETS GO AND PRACTISE THESE MOVES.
RAGE!
DO I PASS TO THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT WING?
ER—DO I GO BACKWARDS, FORWARDS, OR SIDEWAYS NEXT?
ER—WAS I TO SAVE, OR SCORE?
NOW—WHAT'S THIS ROUND THING FOR?
WISH I COULD FIND A POLICEMAN—I'M LOST!
CONFUSED

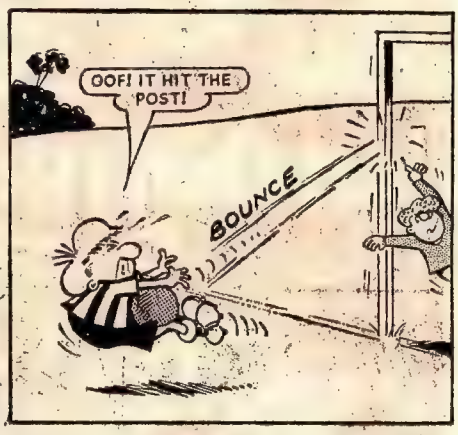

Later—
HOPELESS—HOW CAN I GET THAT LOT TO REMEMBER THE PLANS?
HMMM!
Next day—
RIGHT, BOYS—IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE PLANS . . .

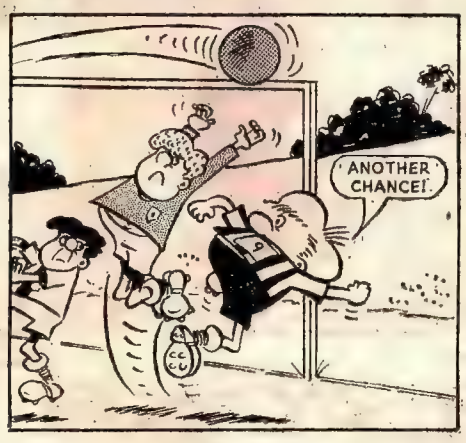

. . . I'VE MARKED THEM ALL OUT FOR YOU!
BNO. 1.7.78.

# BALL BOY

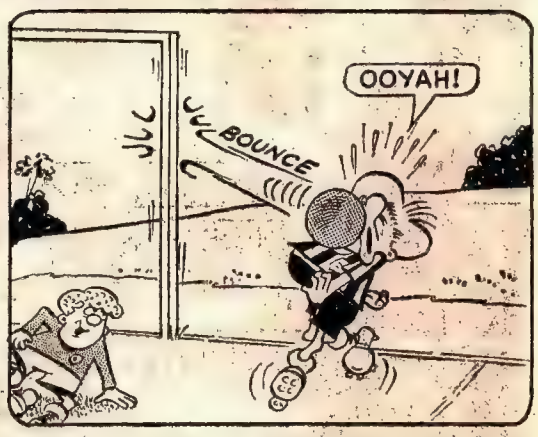

I'VE ONLY GOT THE GOALIE TO BEAT!

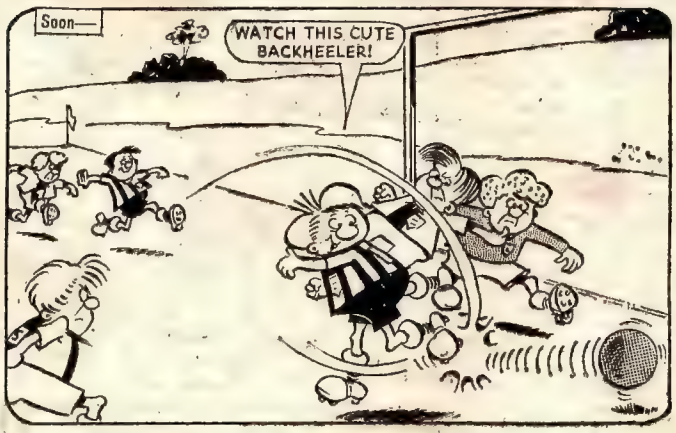
STOP THAT IF YOU CAN!
BOOT!

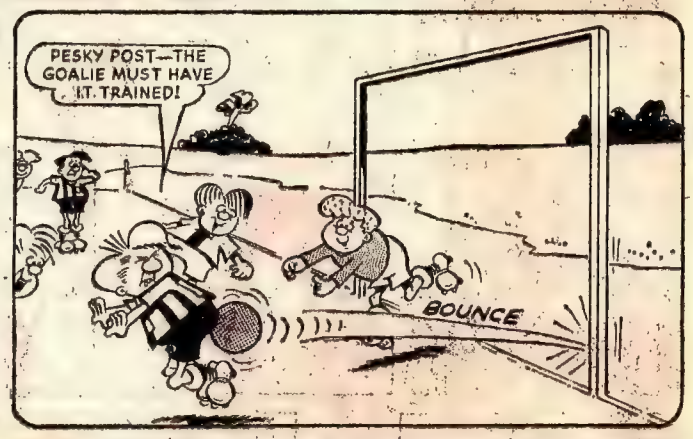

OOF! IT HIT THE POST!
BOUNCE

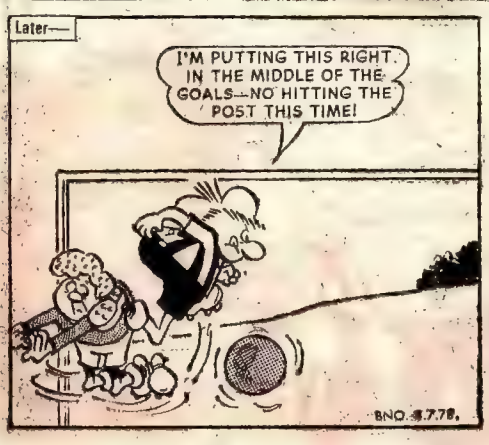

ANOTHER CHANCE!

BOOMPH!
THAT'S PAST THE 'KEEPER!

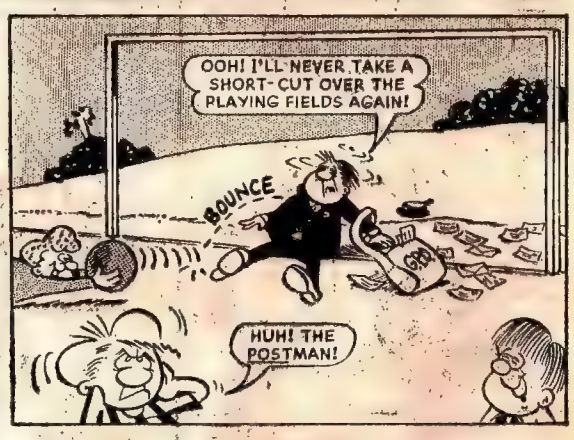

BOUNCE
OOYAH!


Soon—
WATCH THIS CUTE BACKHEELER!


PESKY POST—THE GOALIE MUST HAVE IT TRAINED!
BOUNCE

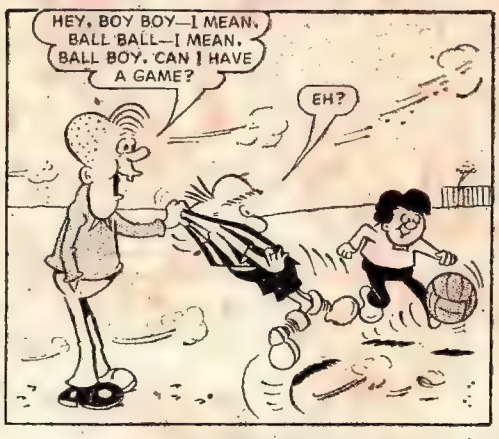

Later—
I'M PUTTING THIS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GOALS—NO HITTING THE POST THIS TIME!
BNO 8.7.78.

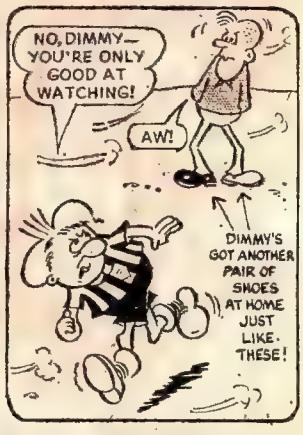
OH, NO! BUT I HAVE!
WHAM!


OOH! I'LL NEVER TAKE A SHORT-CUT OVER THE PLAYING FIELDS AGAIN!
BOUNCE
HUH! THE POSTMAN!

# BALL BOY

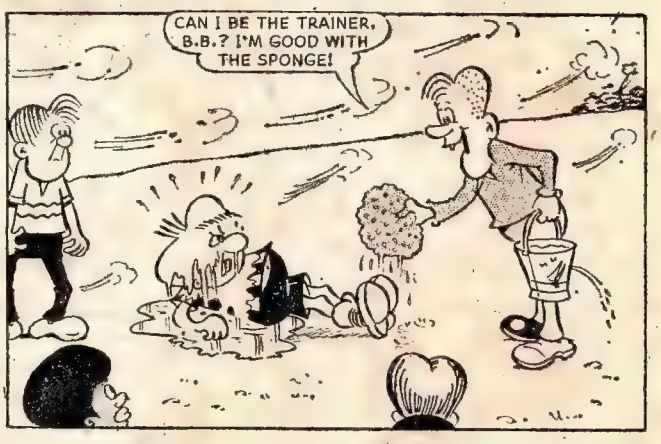
IT'S DIFFICULT TO CONTROL THE BALL IN THIS HIGH WIND!


HEY, BOY BOY—I MEAN, BALL BALL—I MEAN, BALL BOY. CAN I HAVE A GAME?
EH?

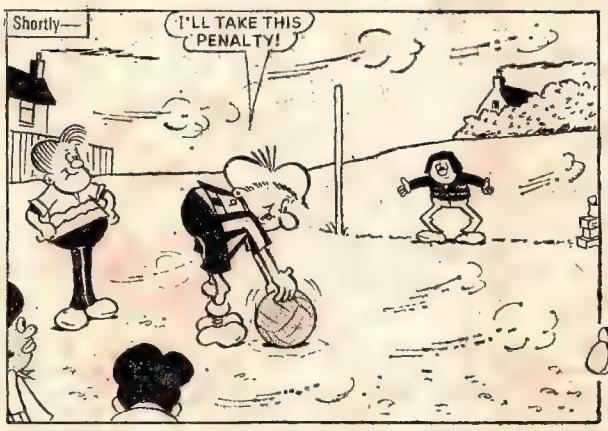

NO, DIMMY—YOU'RE ONLY GOOD AT WATCHING!
AW!
DIMMY'S GOT ANOTHER PAIR OF SHOES AT HOME JUST LIKE THESE!

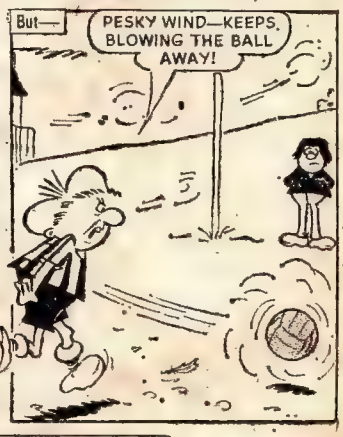
THE WIND'S GETTING STRONGER—HOPE IT DOESN'T RAIN!

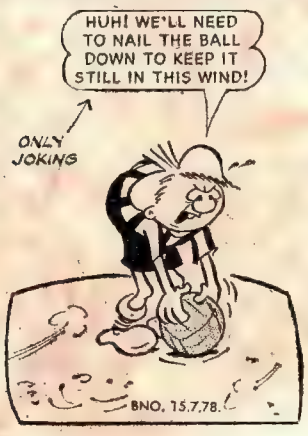
SPLOOSH!

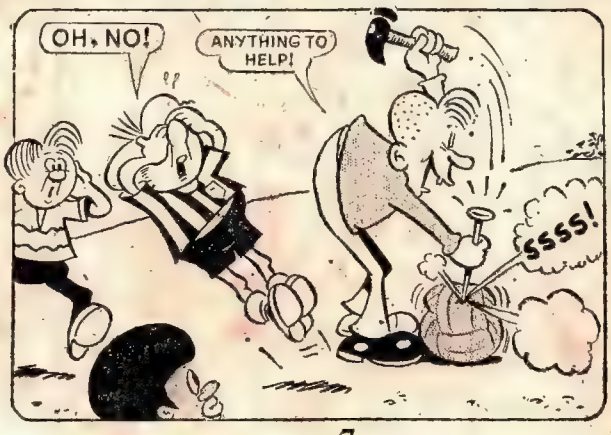

CAN I BE THE TRAINER, B.B.? I'M GOOD WITH THE SPONGE!

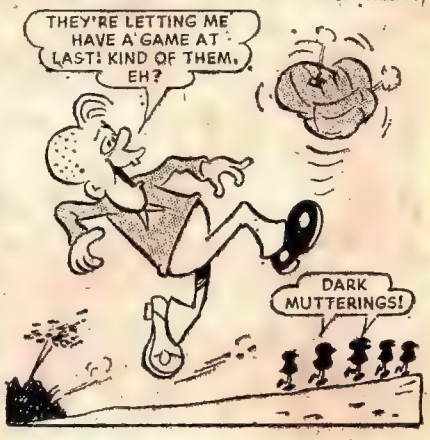
OFF! OFF! OFF!


Shortly—
I'LL TAKE THIS PENALTY!

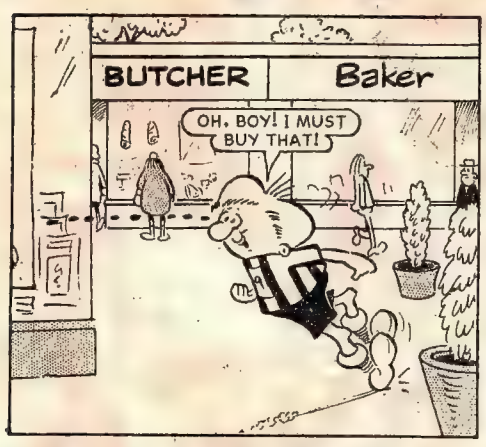

But—
PESKY WIND—KEEPS BLOWING THE BALL AWAY!


HUH! WE'LL NEED TO NAIL THE BALL DOWN TO KEEP IT STILL IN THIS WIND!
ONLY JOKING
BNO. 15.7.78.

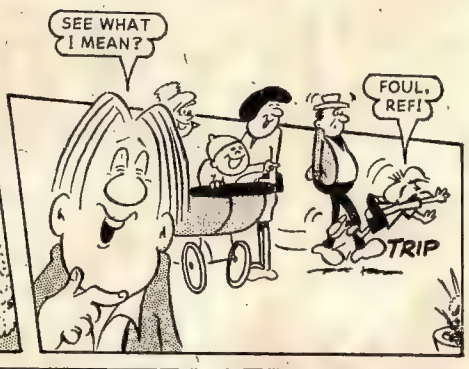

OH, NO!
ANYTHING TO HELP!
SSSS!

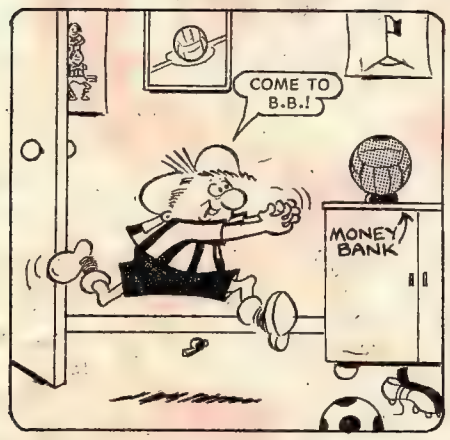

THEY'RE LETTING ME HAVE A GAME AT LAST! KIND OF THEM, EH?
DARK MUTTERINGS!

# BALL BOY

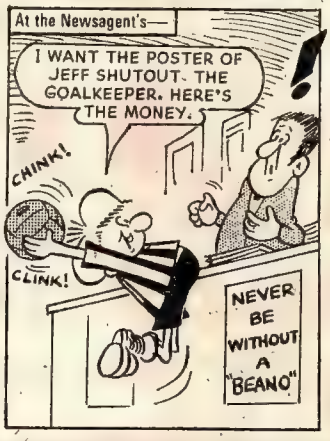

BUTCHER
Baker
OH, BOY! I MUST BUY THAT!

HEH! BALL BOY ALWAYS LOOKS AS IF HE'S PLAYING FOOTBALL!
SWERVE

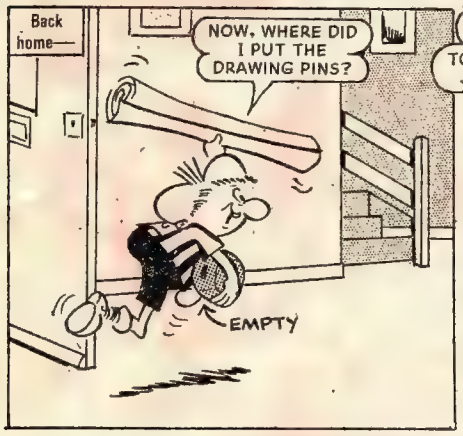

SEE WHAT I MEAN?
FOUL, REF!
TRIP


COME TO B.B.!
MONEY BANK

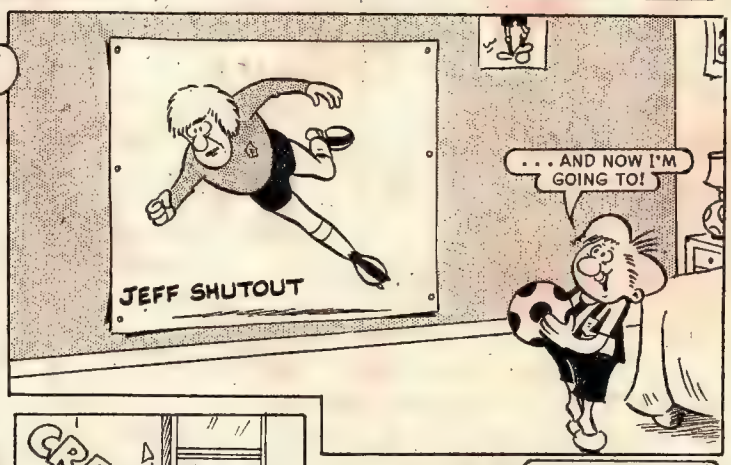
BACK TO THAT SHOP, NOW!
CLINK! CLUNK!

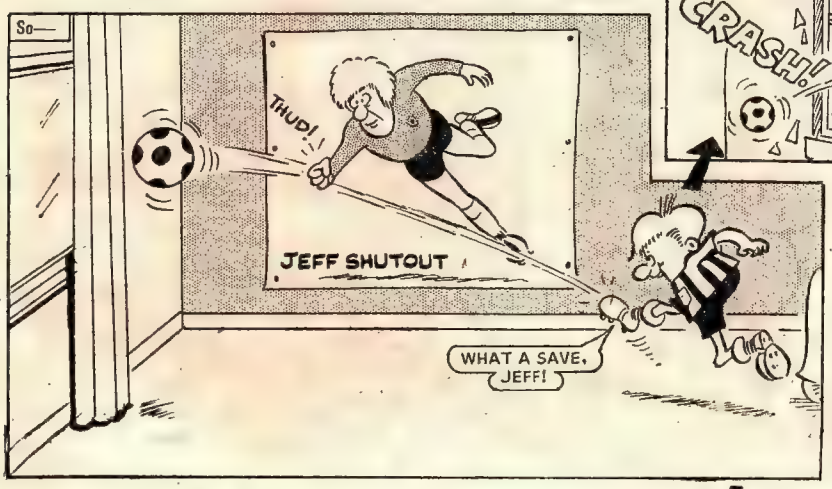

At the Newsagent's—
I WANT THE POSTER OF JEFF SHUTOUT, THE GOALKEEPER. HERE'S THE MONEY.
CHINK!
CLINK!
NEVER BE WITHOUT A "BEANO"

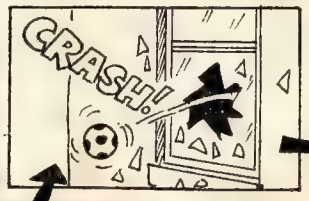
GOOD JOB I'M A BIT OF A GOALKEEPER MYSELF!
THROW IN-N

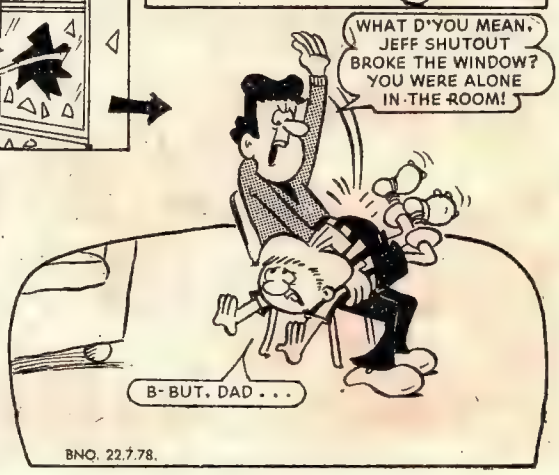

Back home—
NOW, WHERE DID I PUT THE DRAWING PINS?
EMPTY

AT LAST—I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO "SCORE" AGAINST JEFF SHUTOUT! . . .


JEFF SHUTOUT
. . . AND NOW I'M GOING TO!


So—
THUD!
JEFF SHUTOUT
WHAT A SAVE, JEFF!

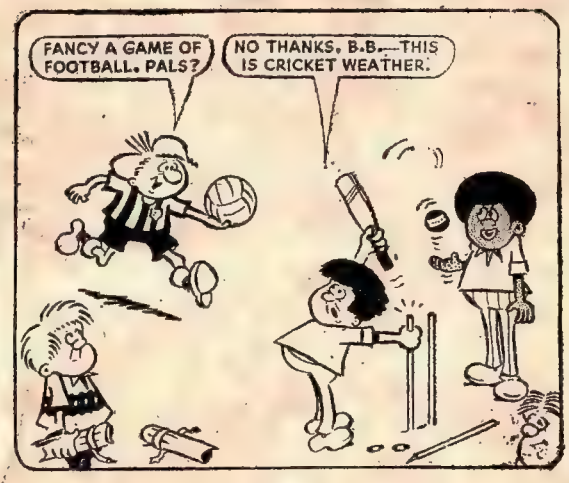

CRASH!


WHAT D'YOU MEAN, JEFF SHUTOUT BROKE THE WINDOW? YOU WERE ALONE IN THE ROOM!
B-BUT, DAD . . .
BNO. 22.7.78.

# BALL BOY

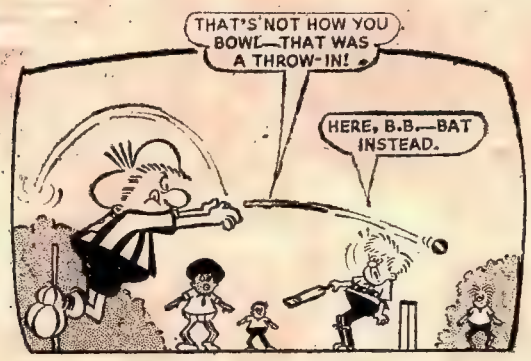
Ball Boy's playing in goals this week—
PESKY SUN—I CAN'T SEE!
PENALTY!
BUT, REF, I WAS BLINDED BY THE SUN!
NO EXCUSE!
WHERE IS IT? WHERE IS IT?
THAT SUN!
I'LL NET THE REBOUND!
AW, REFEREE!
ANY MORE FOULS FROM YOU, AND I'M SENDING YOU OFF!
HAVE MY HAT, B.B.—IT'LL KEEP THE SUN OUT OF YOUR EYES!
Soon—
THIS IS BETTER!
C-CAN'T SEE A TH-THING NOW!
CRUMP
AH! BUT I'VE GOT THE BALL!
OFF!
HUH! AN EARLY BATH FOR ME!
SPLOSH
HA! HA! EVEN EARLIER THAN YOU THOUGHT!
BNO. 29.7.78

# BALL BOY

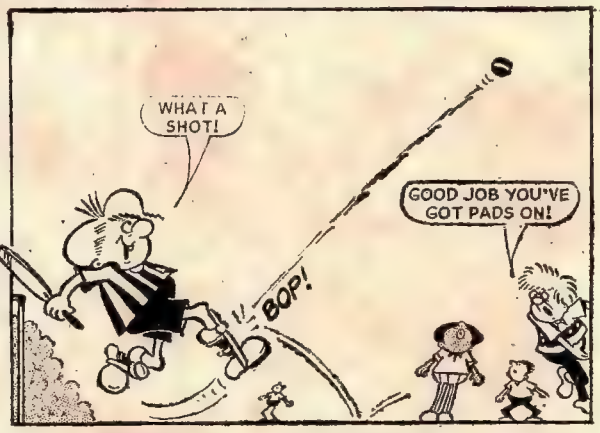

FANCY A GAME OF FOOTBALL, PALS?
NO THANKS, B.B.—THIS IS CRICKET WEATHER.

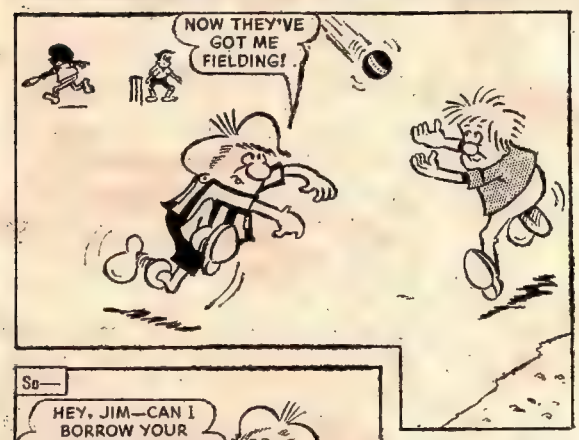
CRICKET? OH, WELL—I'LL GIVE IT A GO.
HERE—YOU BOWL!

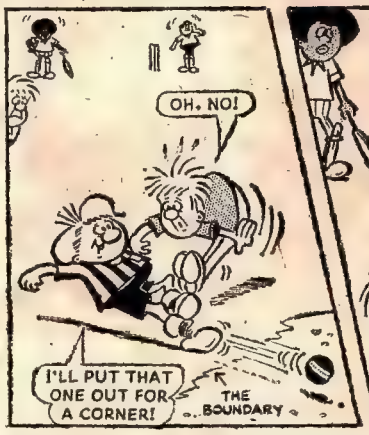
WHAT'S HE DOING?

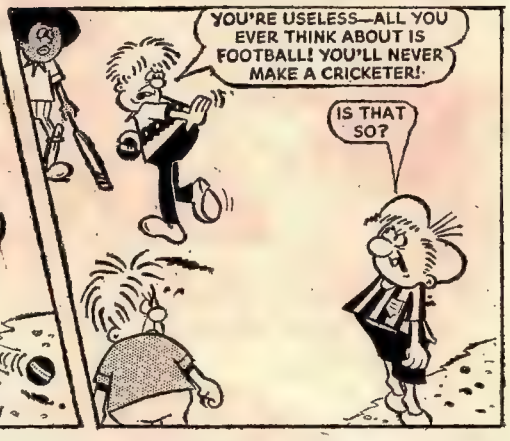

THAT'S NOT HOW YOU BOWL—THAT WAS A THROW-IN!
HERE, B.B.—BAT INSTEAD.

FIRST BALL, COMING UP!


WHAT A SHOT!
BOP!
GOOD JOB YOU'VE GOT PADS ON!

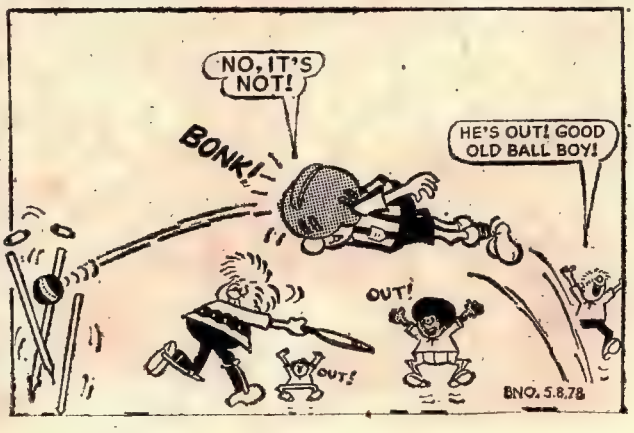

NOW THEY'VE GOT ME FIELDING!


OH, NO!
I'LL PUT THAT ONE OUT FOR A CORNER!
THE BOUNDARY


YOU'RE USELESS—ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT IS FOOTBALL! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE A CRICKETER!
IS THAT SO?

So—
HEY, JIM—CAN I BORROW YOUR PROTECTIVE HELMET?
SURE THING, B.B.!

Shortly—
THAT'S A SIX!
WHACK!


NO, IT'S NOT!
BONK!
HE'S OUT! GOOD OLD BALL BOY!
OUT!
OUT!
BNO. 5.8.78

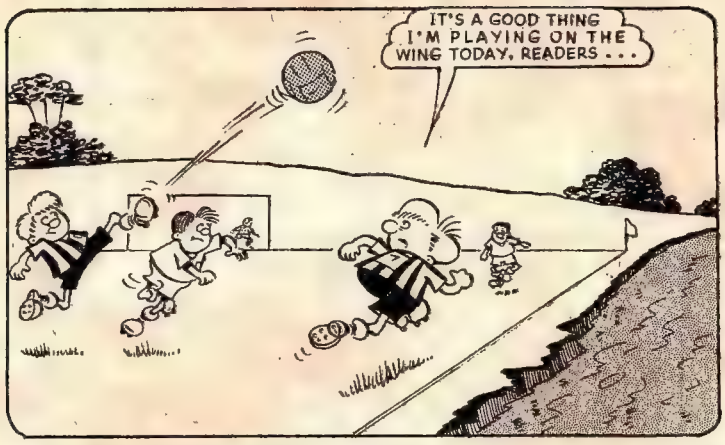
# BALL BOY

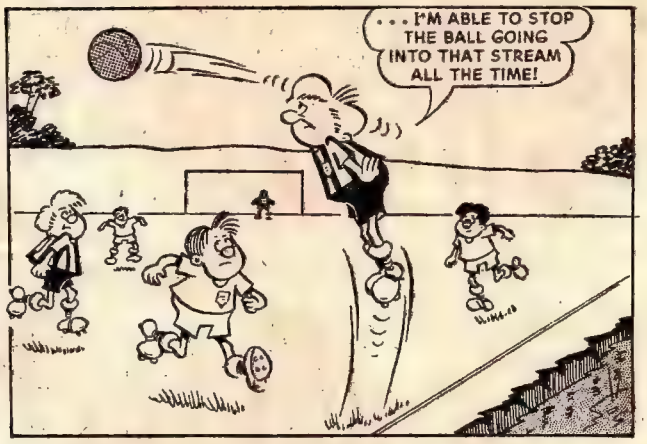
HERE'S A LETTER FROM YOUR UNCLE BEN. HE'S VISITING US THIS WEEKEND.
COO!
UNCLE BEN ALWAYS BRINGS ME A PRESENT CONNECTED WITH FOOTBALL WHEN HE VISITS.
HE MIGHT BRING ME A NEW WORLD CUP FOOTBALL!
OR THE LATEST STYLE OF FOOTBALL BOOTS!
MAYBE EVEN A TV FOOTBALL GAME!
PING!
BLEEP!
BLEEP!
PING!
I WOULDN'T MIND BOOKS OR MAGAZINES EITHER!
SCOOP
YIPPEE! ROLL ON THE WEEKEND!
On Saturday—
WONDER WHAT UNCLE BEN'S BROUGHT ME?
AND HERE'S A PRESENT FOR MY FAVOURITE NEPHEW!
AW. A BEDSIDE LAMP. NOTHING TO DO WITH FOOTBALL!
THANKS, UNCLE!
HIDING HIS DISAPPOINTMENT
BEDSIDE LAMP
BNO. 12.8.78
That night—
GOOD OLD UNCLE BEN! HE NEVER FAILS ME!
SCOOP
A BEDSIDE LAMP FOR FLOODLIT READING IN BED!
SCOOP

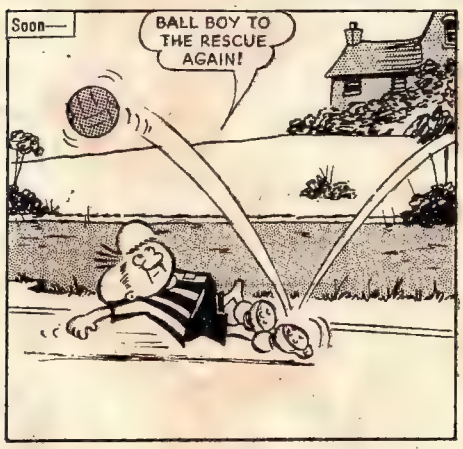
# BALL BOY

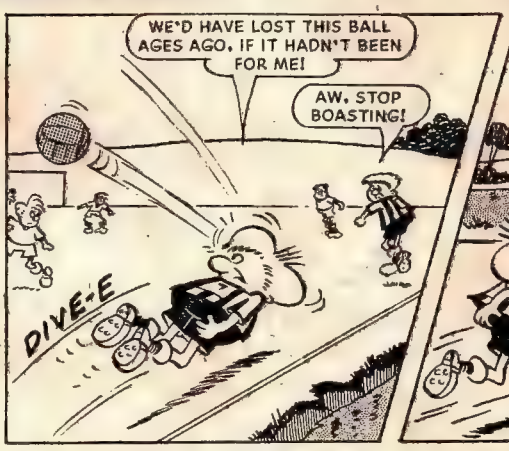
PASS THE BALL TO ME, B.B.!
THUD!
I HOPE YOU DIDN'T DO THAT ON PURPOSE!
ER, OF COURSE NOT REF—I SLICED THAT PASS!
MY DEFENCE IS IN TROUBLE. I'LL HELP OUT!
GREAT! I'VE WON THE BALL!
MAGIC, B.B.! PASS IT BACK TO ME!
GOAL!
OH, NO! ANOTHER SLICE!
SORRY TEAM—I'LL MAKE UP FOR THAT!
I MUST GET THE EQUALISER!
BAH!
BNO. 19.8.78
ER, GUESS WHAT, LADS!
BANG!
SLICED AGAIN!

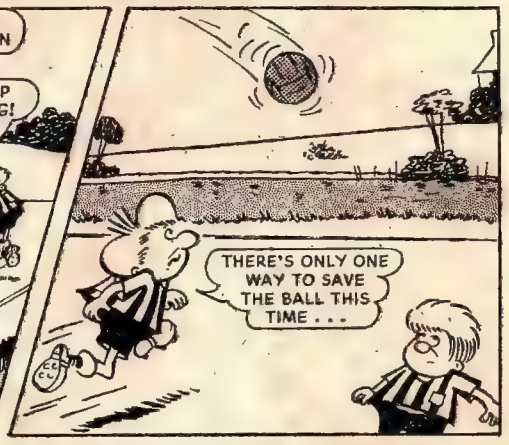
# BALL BOY

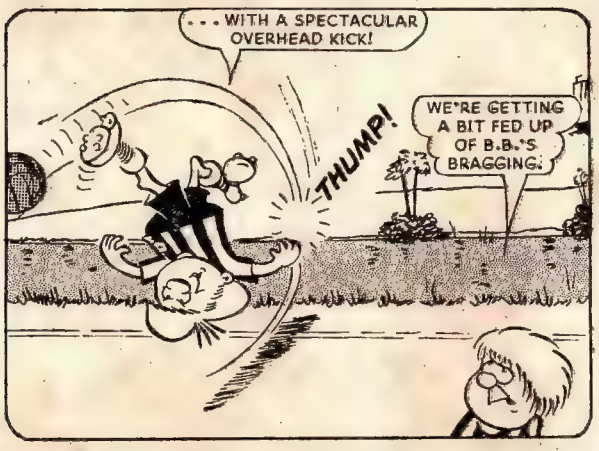

IT'S A GOOD THING I'M PLAYING ON THE WING TODAY, READERS . . .


. . . I'M ABLE TO STOP THE BALL GOING INTO THAT STREAM ALL THE TIME!


Soon—
BALL BOY TO THE RESCUE AGAIN!

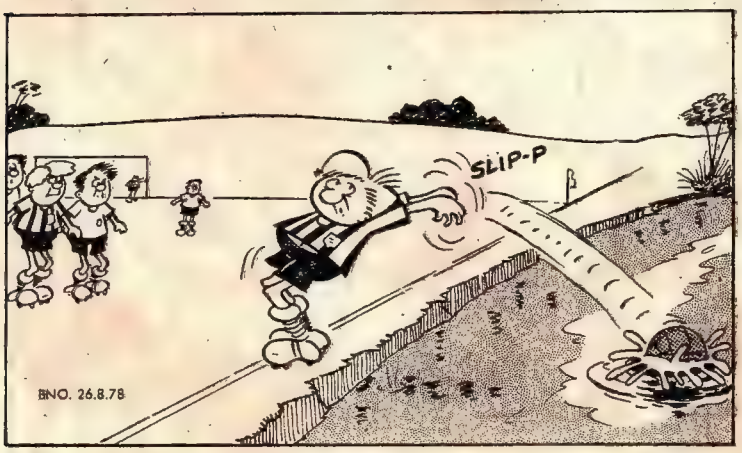

WE'D HAVE LOST THIS BALL AGES AGO, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR ME!
AW, STOP BOASTING!
DIVE-E

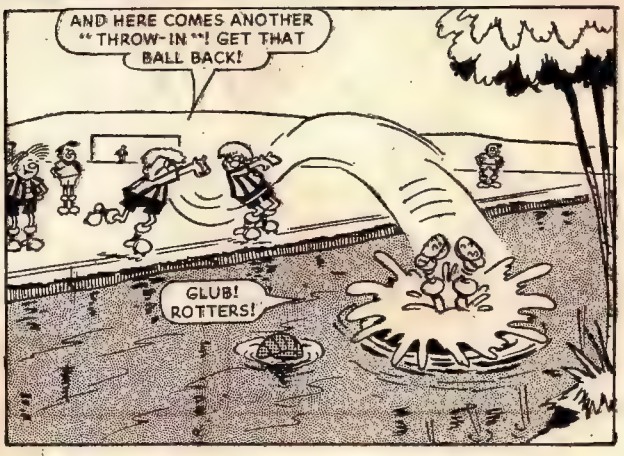

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE THE BALL THIS TIME . . .


. . . WITH A SPECTACULAR OVERHEAD KICK!
THUMP!
WE'RE GETTING A BIT FED UP OF B.B.'S BRAGGING!

Soon—
OUR THROW-IN! PHEW! EVEN OUR GOALIE COULDN'T HAVE CAUGHT THAT BALL!
GRAB

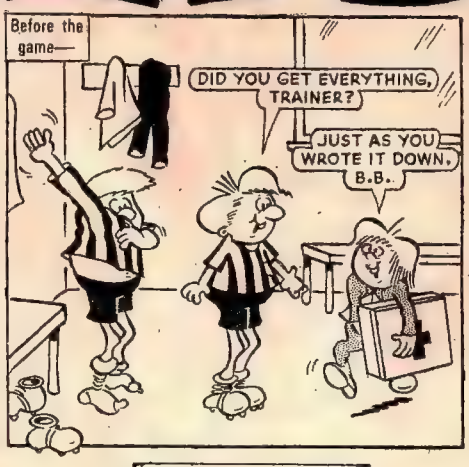
HERE COMES THE THROW-IN!

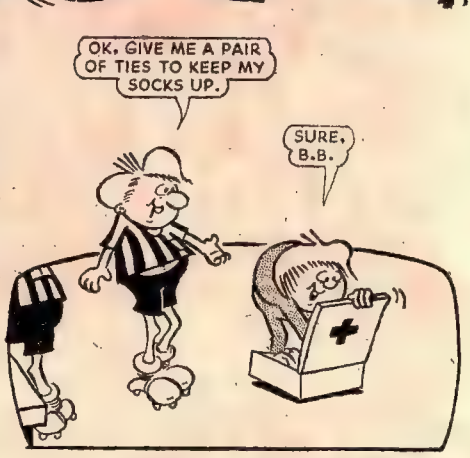

SLIP-P
BNO. 26.8.78

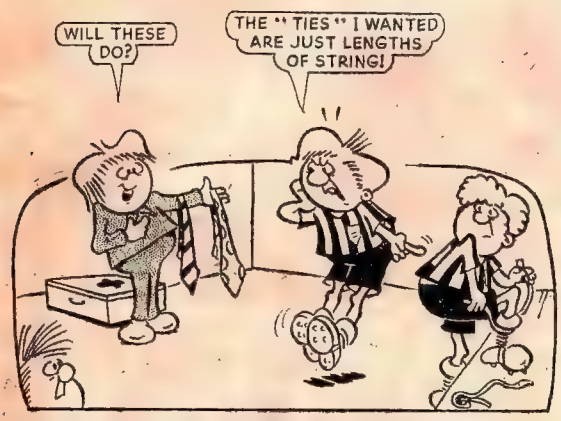

AND HERE COMES ANOTHER "THROW-IN"! GET THAT BALL BACK!
GLUB! ROTTERS!

# BALL BOY

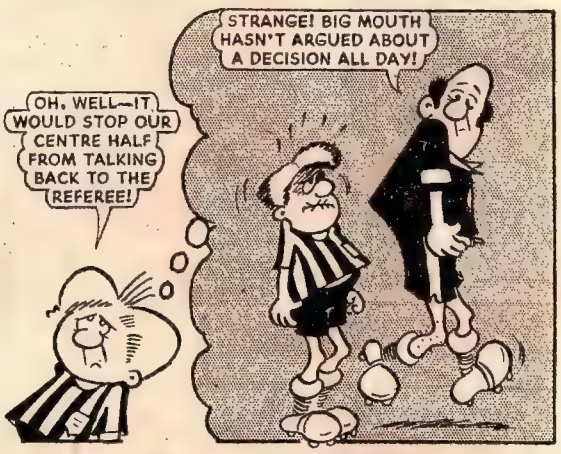
I'M MAKING YOU TEAM TRAINER, TINY. HERE'S A LIST OF THE STUFF WE NEED FOR TODAY'S GAME.
I'LL SEE TO IT, B.B.

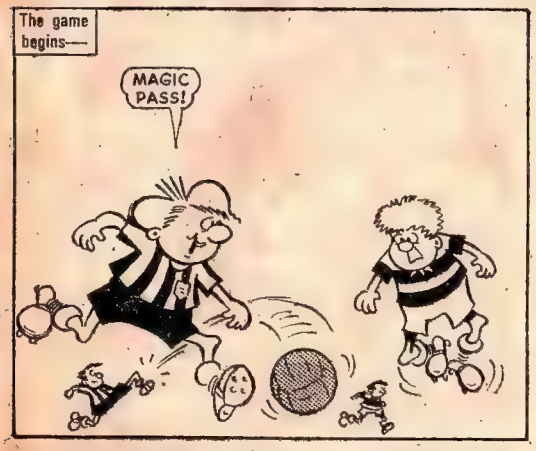

Before the game—
DID YOU GET EVERYTHING, TRAINER?
JUST AS YOU WROTE IT DOWN, B.B.

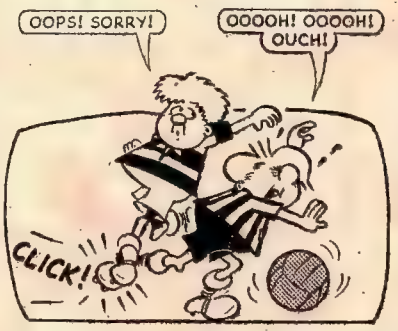

OK, GIVE ME A PAIR OF TIES TO KEEP MY SOCKS UP.
SURE, B.B.

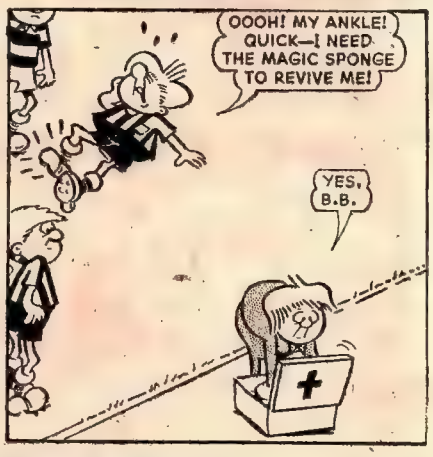

WILL THESE DO?
THE "TIES" I WANTED ARE JUST LENGTHS OF STRING!

WHERE'S THE CHEWING GUM TO HELP US CONCENTRATE?
OO-ER! THE LIST JUST SAID "GUM"!
AW, NO! STICKY GUM!
ADHESIVE GUM

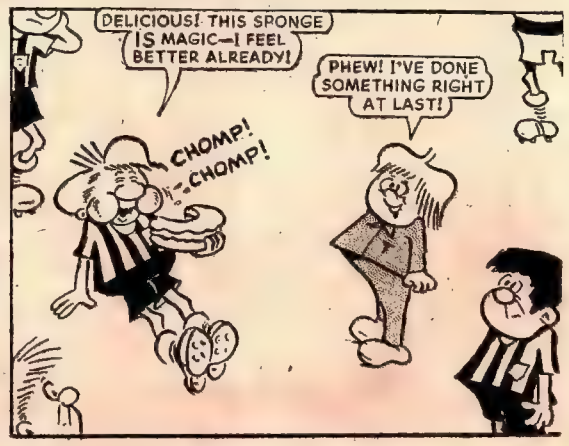

OH, WELL—IT WOULD STOP OUR CENTRE HALF FROM TALKING BACK TO THE REFEREE!
STRANGE! BIG MOUTH HASN'T ARGUED ABOUT A DECISION ALL DAY!


The game begins—
MAGIC PASS!

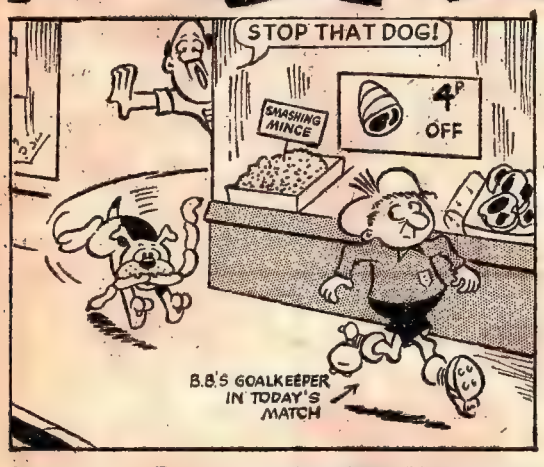

OOPS! SORRY!
OOOOH! OOOOH! OUCH!
CLICK!

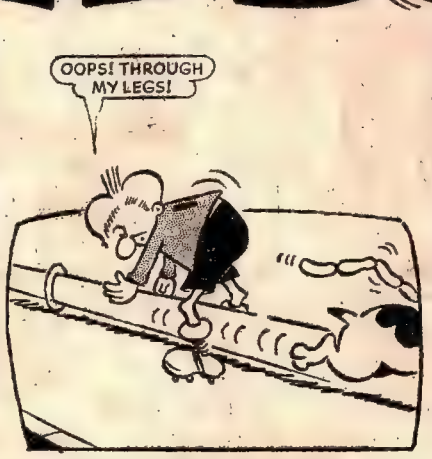

OOOH! MY ANKLE! QUICK—I NEED THE MAGIC SPONGE TO REVIVE ME!
YES, B.B.

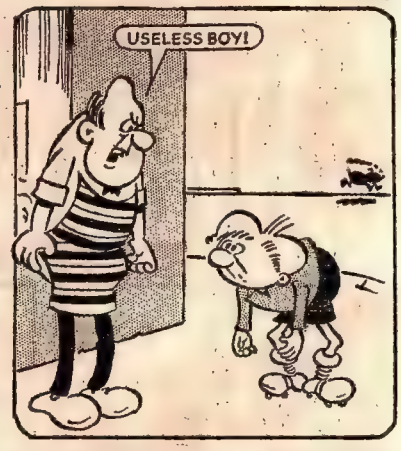
THAT'S NOT THE MAGIC SPONGE! HE'S BLUNDERED AGAIN!
JAM SPONGE
BNO. 2.9.78


DELICIOUS! THIS SPONGE IS MAGIC—I FEEL BETTER ALREADY!
PHEW! I'VE DONE SOMETHING RIGHT AT LAST!
CHOMP! CHOMP!

# BALL BOY

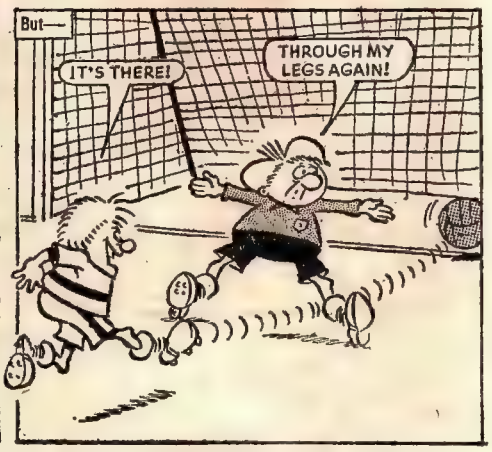

STOP THAT DOG!
SMASHING MINCE
4p OFF
B.B.'S GOALKEEPER IN TODAY'S MATCH

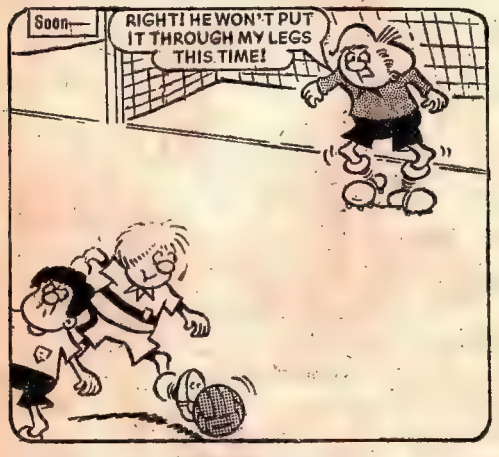

OOPS! THROUGH MY LEGS!


USELESS BOY!

Later, in the match—
I'M THROUGH! ONLY THE 'KEEPER TO BEAT!

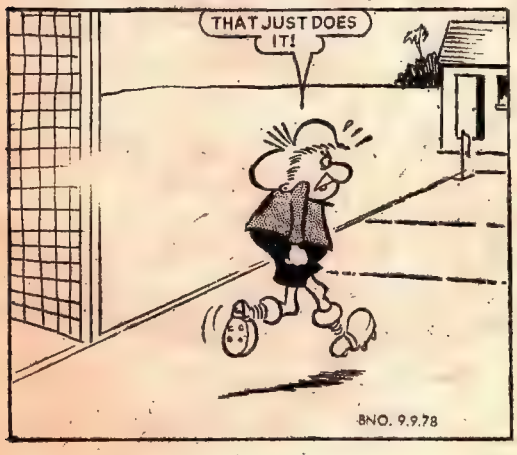
GOOD 'KEEPERS SPREAD THEIR LIMBS TO COVER MOST OF THE GOAL!


But—
IT'S THERE!
THROUGH MY LEGS AGAIN!

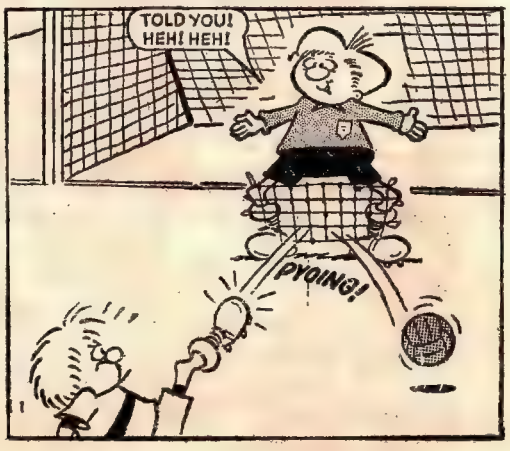

Soon—
RIGHT! HE WON'T PUT IT THROUGH MY LEGS THIS TIME!

I'LL CLOSE MY—OOYAH!—MY ANKLES!
CLICK!

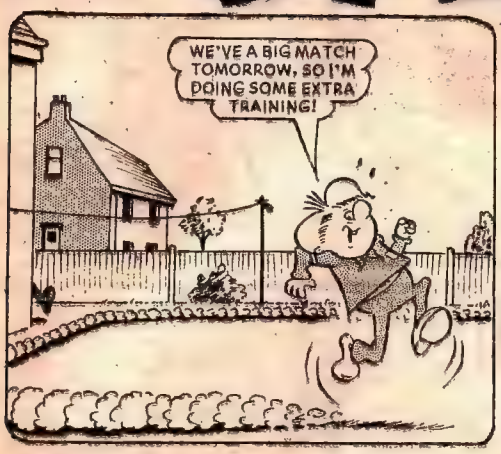
OOOH!
GOAL AGAIN!


THAT JUST DOES IT!
BNO. 9.9.78

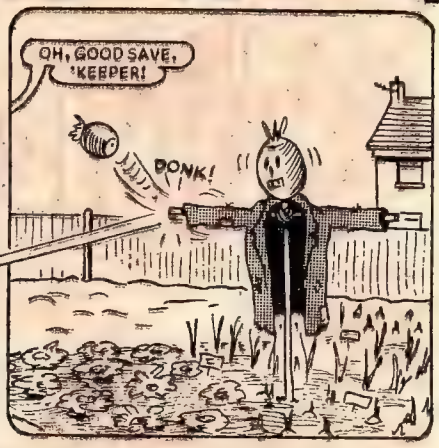
THE BALL DEFINITELY WON'T BE GOING THROUGH MY LEGS AGAIN!

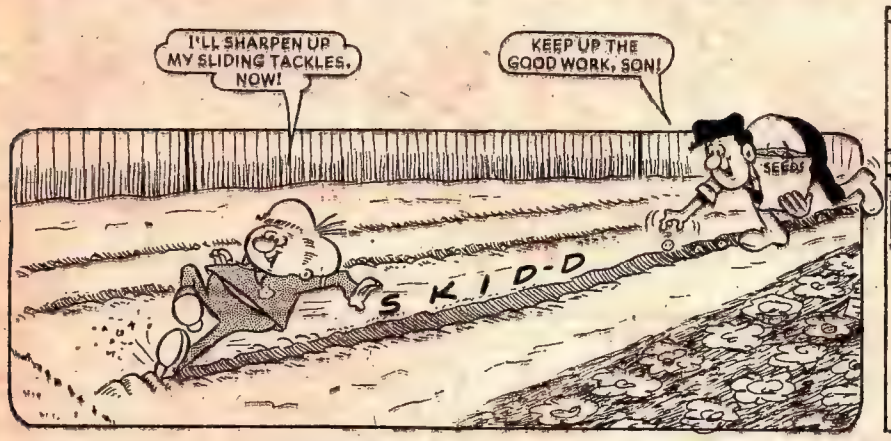

TOLD YOU! HEH! HEH!
PYOING!

# BALL BOY


WE'VE A BIG MATCH TOMORROW, SO I'M DOING SOME EXTRA TRAINING!

FIRST, SOME SHOOTING PRACTICE!


OH, GOOD SAVE, 'KEEPER!
DONK!

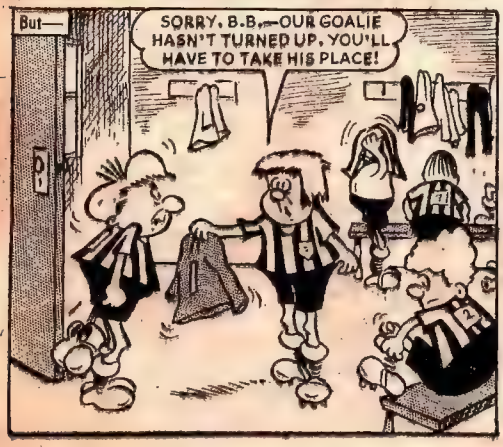

I'LL SHARPEN UP MY SLIDING TACKLES, NOW!
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, SON!
SKID-D
SEEDS

NOW I'LL WORK ON MY SWERVES AND TURNS!
SWERVE

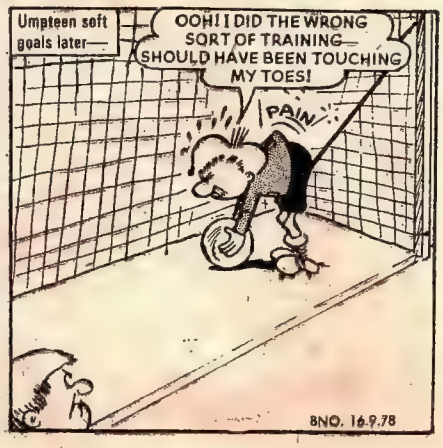
CLUMSY!
FUP!

WELL, YOU DON'T USUALLY FIND WASHING BASKETS ON FOOTBALL PITCHES!

Next day—
I'LL BE IN AMONGST THE GOALS TODAY—I'M TRAINED TO PERFECTION!
OVER-CONFIDENT
PLAYING FIELDS


But—
SORRY, B.B.—OUR GOALIE HASN'T TURNED UP, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE HIS PLACE!

Soon—
GOAL!
SOFT LOB
AW, NO!

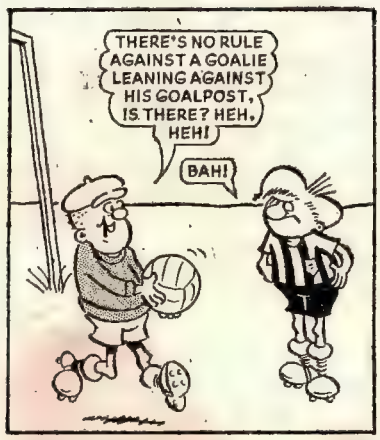

Umpteen soft goals later—
OOH! I DID THE WRONG SORT OF TRAINING—SHOULD HAVE BEEN TOUCHING MY TOES!
PAIN
8NO. 16.9.78

# BALL BOY

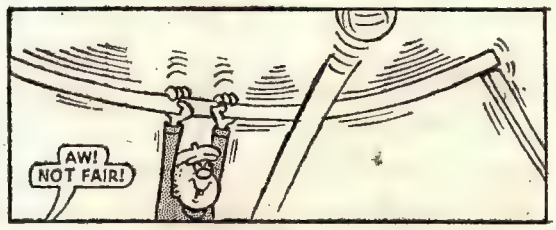
COR! LOOK AT THE STATE OF THE GOAL. WE'LL BE SHOOTING INTO!
SUITS ME!

The game begins—
A GOAL FOR CERTAIN!

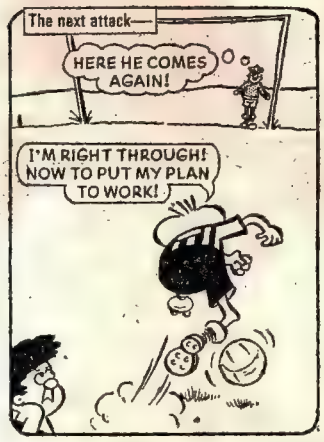
AW! THAT'S CHEATING!
PUSH


THERE'S NO RULE AGAINST A GOALIE LEANING AGAINST HIS GOALPOST, IS THERE? HEH. HEH!
BAH!

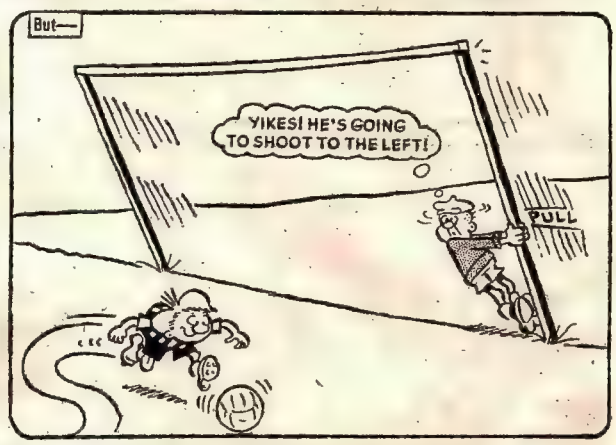
Later—
IT MUST BE A GOAL THIS TIME!

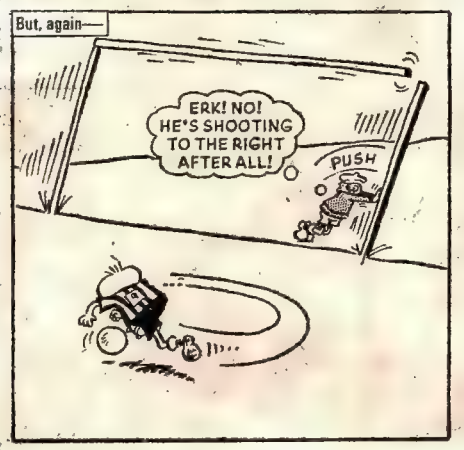

AW! NOT FAIR!

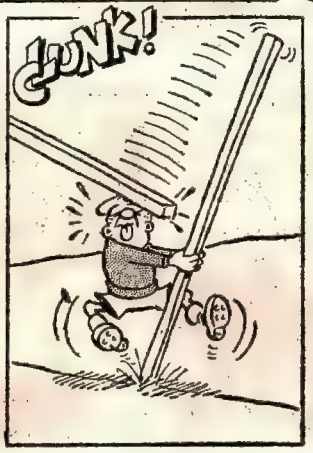
I WAS ONLY REACHING FOR THE BALL!
RIGHT! I'LL FIX YOU!


The next attack—
HERE HE COMES AGAIN!
I'M RIGHT THROUGH! NOW TO PUT MY PLAN TO WORK!

PUSH.
HE'S GOING TO SHOOT TO THE RIGHT—I'LL MAKE HIM MISS AGAIN!


But—
YIKES! HE'S GOING TO SHOOT TO THE LEFT!
PULL


But, again—
ERK! NO! HE'S SHOOTING TO THE RIGHT AFTER ALL!
PUSH


CLUNK!

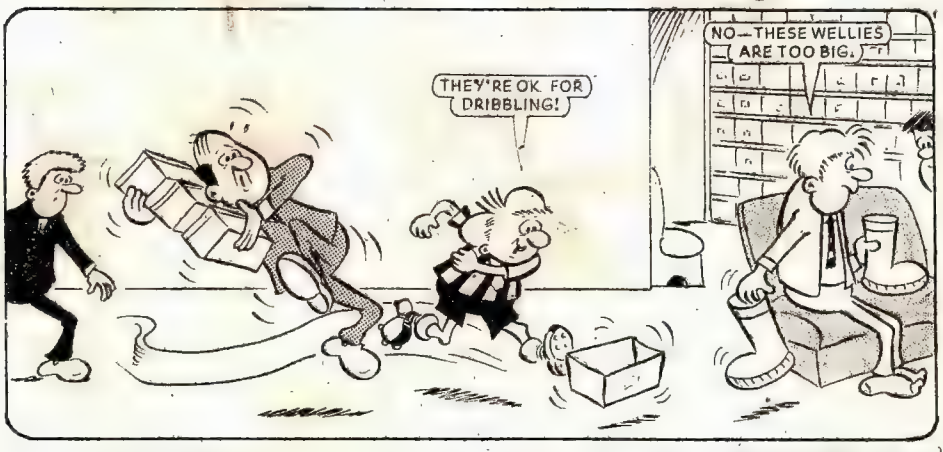
GOAL! . . . OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT!
BNO. 23.9.78

# BALL BOY

IT'S ABOUT TIME I BOUGHT MYSELF A NEW PAIR OF FOOTBALL BOOTS.
SPORTS FOOTWEAR

So—
TRY THESE FOR SIZE.

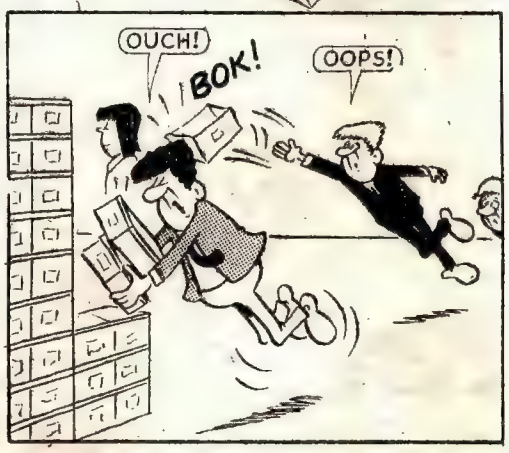
SPORTS DEPT.
WELL, THEY FEEL FINE. BUT I'LL HAVE TO TEST THEM!
WELLIES


THEY'RE OK FOR DRIBBLING!
NO—THESE WELLIES ARE TOO BIG.

HEY! DIRTY FOUL!
TRIP

I'LL SEE HOW THEY ARE FOR SHOOTING!

EEK! MIND THAT LADY, BOY!
KNOCK
WELL SAVED! THINK I'LL SIGN YOU UP FOR MY TEAM!

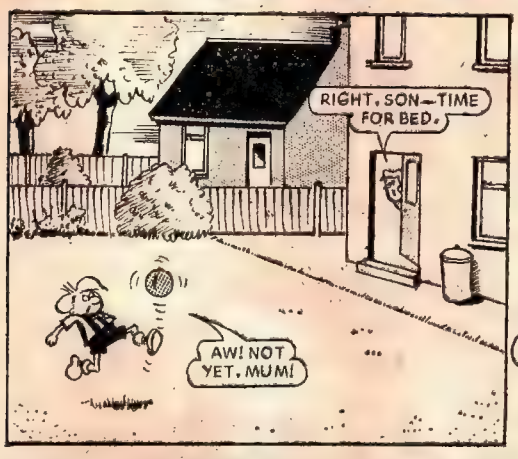

OUCH!
BOK!
OOPS!

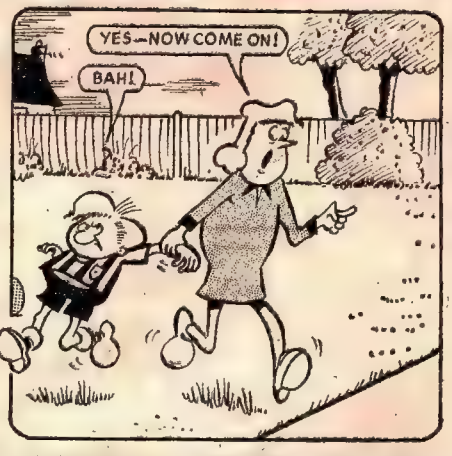
CRUMP!
BNO. 30.9.78

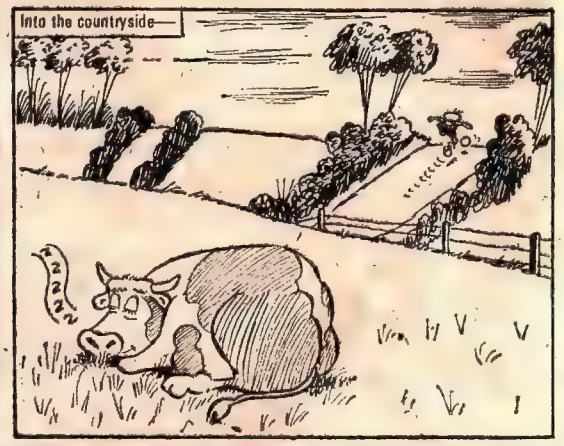
WHAT'S THIS? MY RECEIPT? BUT I HAVEN'T PAID FOR THESE YET!
RECEIPT. NOTHING!

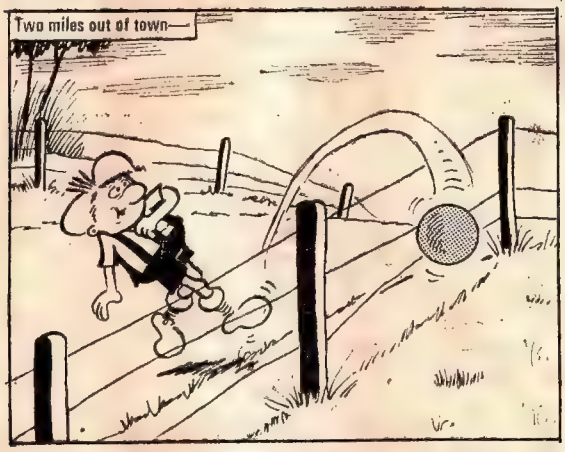
IT'S THE "RED CARD"!
HUH! FANCY BEING SENT OFF IN A SHOE SHOP!

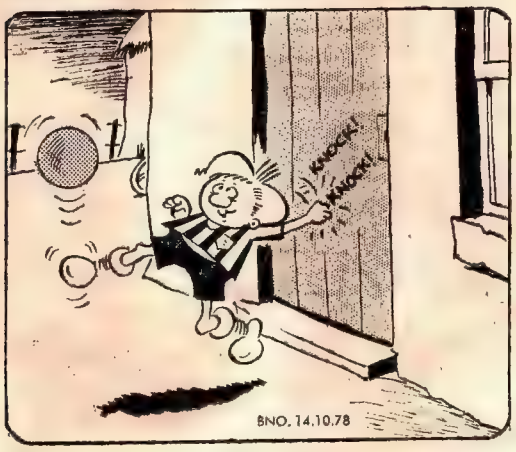
# BALL BOY

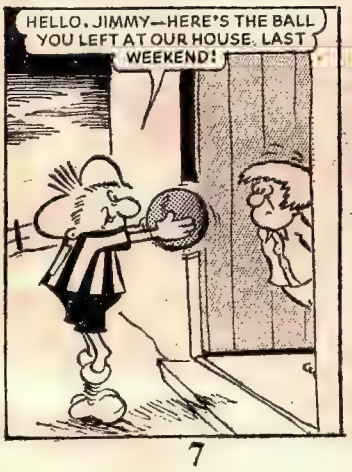




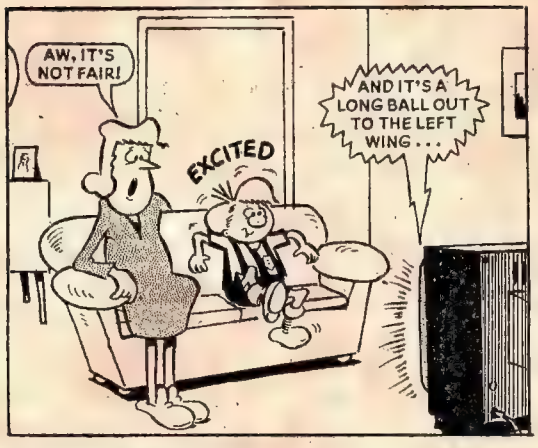



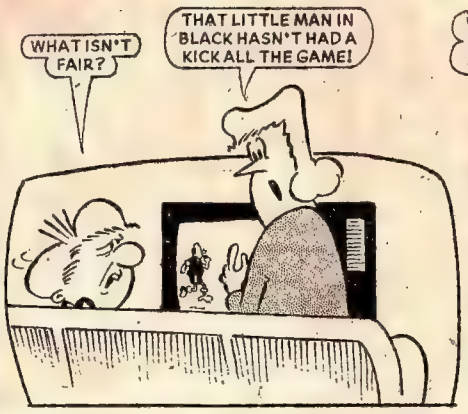


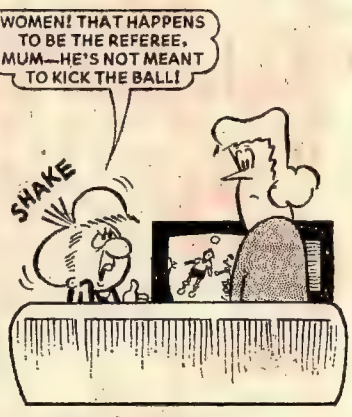



THE NEW "BEANO BOOK" IS NOW ON SALE!

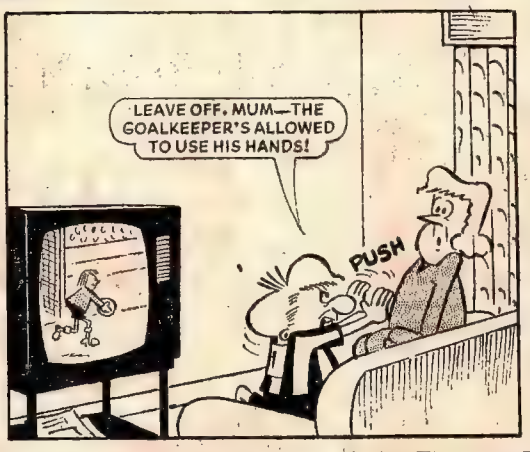
# BALL BOY


AW, IT'S NOT FAIR!
EXCITED
AND IT'S A LONG BALL OUT TO THE LEFT WING . . .

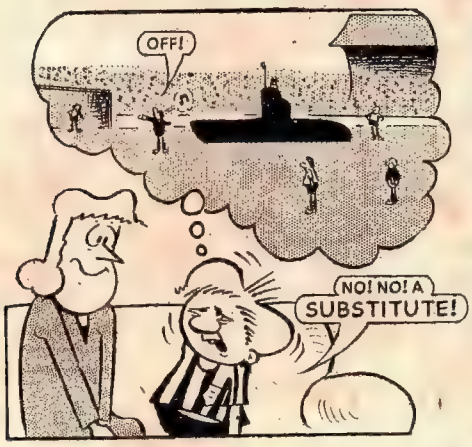

WHAT ISN'T FAIR?
THAT LITTLE MAN IN BLACK HASN'T HAD A KICK ALL THE GAME!


WOMEN! THAT HAPPENS TO BE THE REFEREE, MUM—HE'S NOT MEANT TO KICK THE BALL!
SHAKE

Then—
PENALTY! THAT PLAYER PICKED THE BALL UP!


LEAVE OFF, MUM—THE GOALKEEPER'S ALLOWED TO USE HIS HANDS!
PUSH

Soon—
. . . A SUB'S COMING ON . . .
THAT'S INTERESTING—A SUBMARINE PLAYING FOOTBALL!
NUDGE-NUDGE

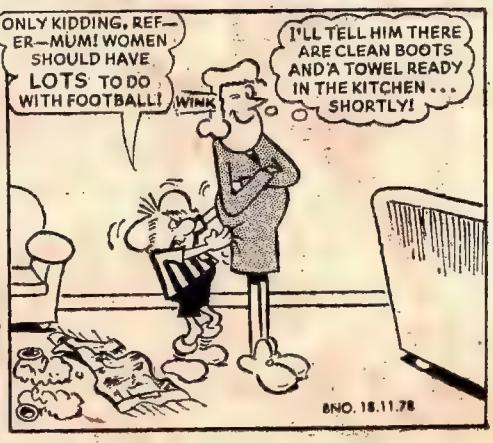

OFF!
NO! NO! A SUBSTITUTE!

The match finishes—
HUH! WOMEN SHOULD KEEP THEIR NOSES OUT OF ANYTHING TO DO WITH FOOTBALL!
OHO!

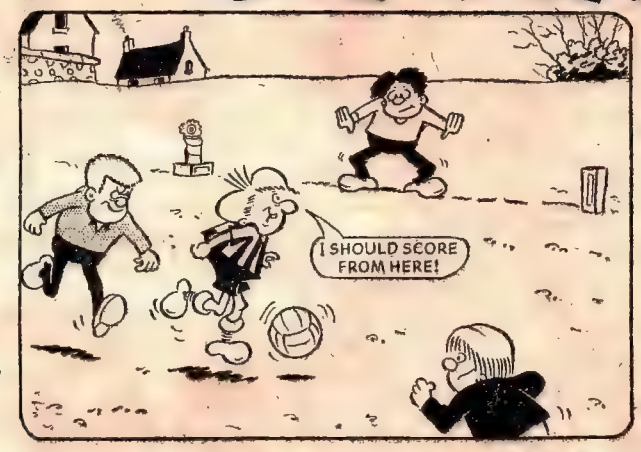
Later—
BETTER GET MY GEAR READY FOR TODAY'S MATCH.

HUH! MY BOOTS ARE MUD-CAKED FROM LAST WEEK'S GAME!

AND MY SHOWER TOWEL HASN'T BEEN WASHED EITHER! YOU HAVEN'T GOT MY GEAR READY, MUM!
BUT YOU SAID WOMEN SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH FOOBTALL!

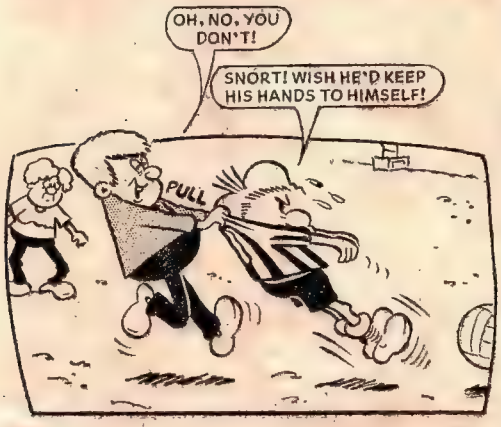

ONLY KIDDING, REF—ER—MUM! WOMEN SHOULD HAVE LOTS TO DO WITH FOOTBALL!
WINK
I'LL TELL HIM THERE ARE CLEAN BOOTS AND A TOWEL READY IN THE KITCHEN . . . SHORTLY!
8NO. 18.11.78

# BALL BOY


I SHOULD SCORE FROM HERE!

PUSH
PENALTY!
AW. RUBBISH!

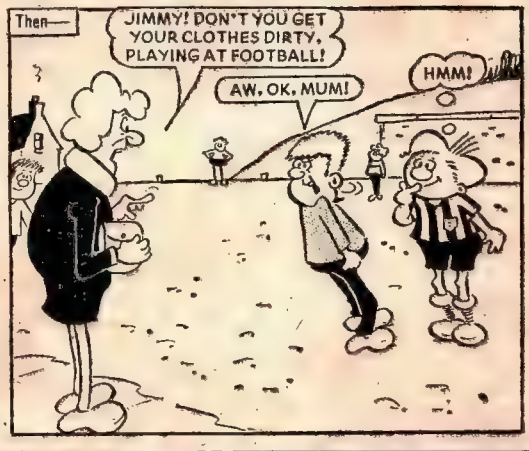
Soon—
I'M GOING RIGHT THROUGH ON MY OWN AGAIN!


OH, NO, YOU DON'T!
SNORT! WISH HE'D KEEP HIS HANDS TO HIMSELF!
PULL

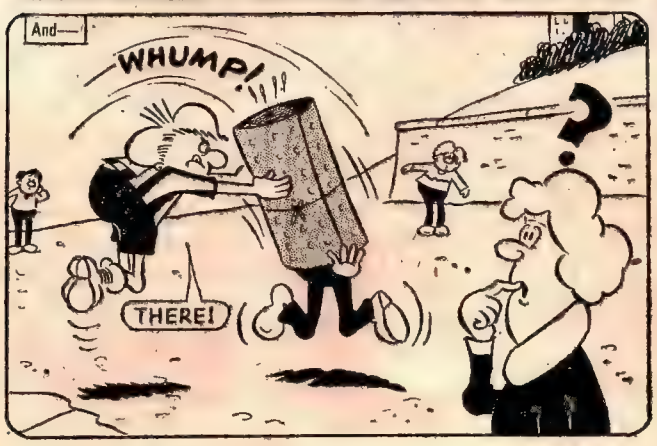
Soon—
I'M NOT GOING TO HOLD B.B. BACK THIS TIME . . .

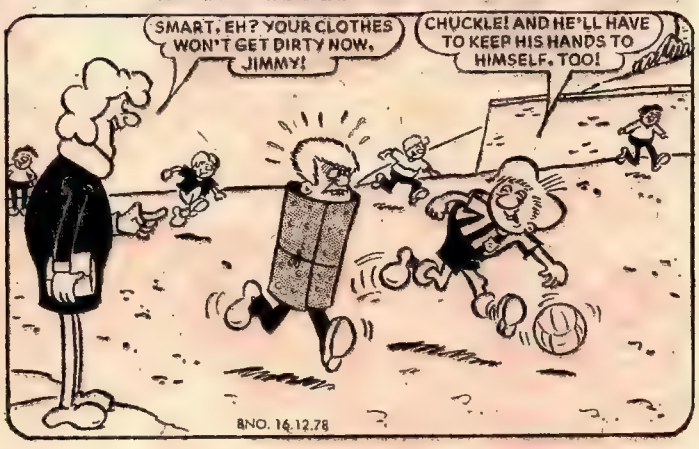
. . . BUT A TICKLE SHOULD STOP HIM IN HIS TRACKS!
HAR! HAR! HAR! HAR!
TICKLE

I WARNED YOU TO KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF . . !


Then—
JIMMY! DON'T YOU GET YOUR CLOTHES DIRTY, PLAYING AT FOOTBALL!
AW, OK, MUM!
HMM!

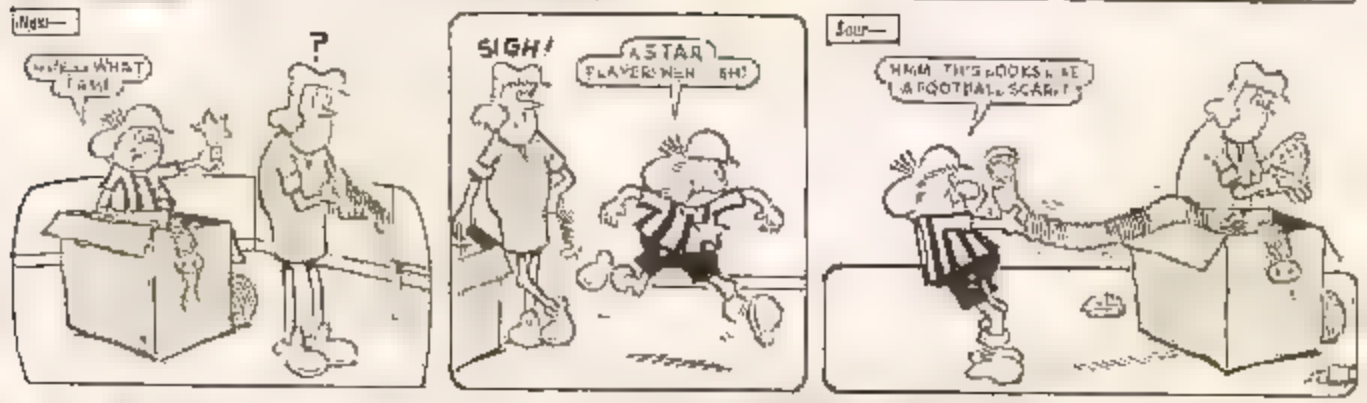
I'LL MAKE SURE HE KEEPS HIS CLOTHES CLEAN!
CARPET MARKET
SMALL CARPET ROLLS GOING CHEAP


And—
WHUMP!
THERE!

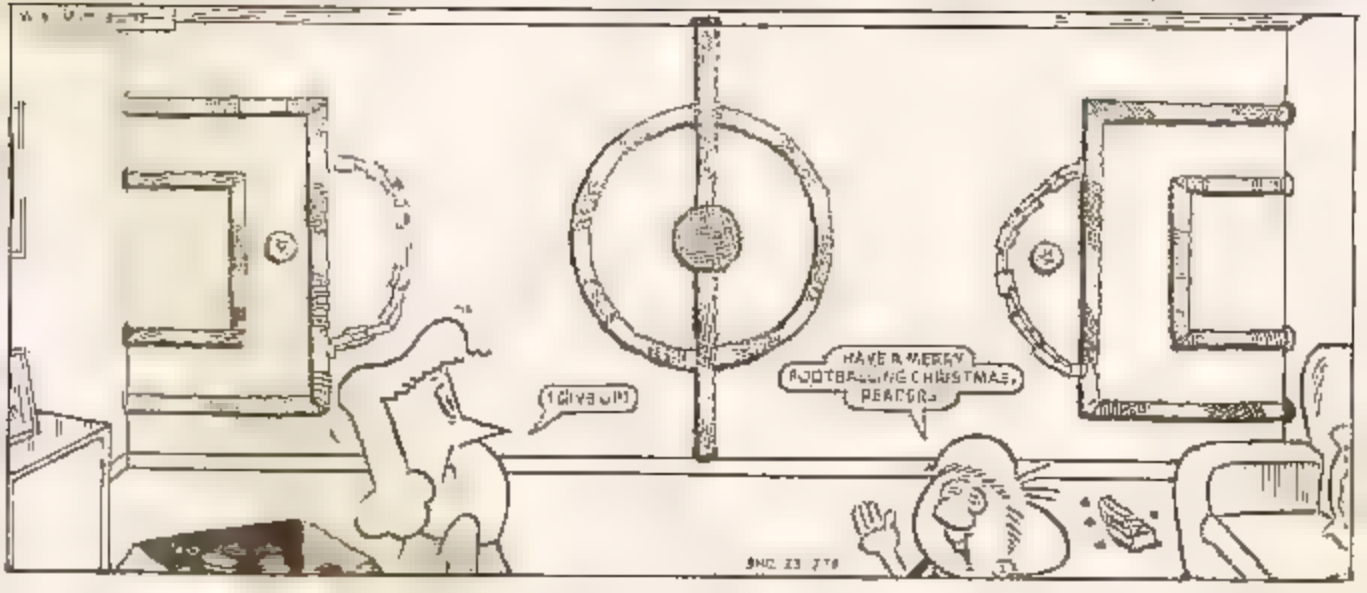

SMART, EH? YOUR CLOTHES WON'T GET DIRTY NOW, JIMMY!
CHUCKLE! AND HE'LL HAVE TO KEEP HIS HANDS TO HIMSELF, TOO!
8NO. 16.12.78

# BALL BOY

HELP ME PUT UP THESE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS, SON.
AW WAS JUST GOING OUT FOR A GAME OF FOOTBALL, MUM!
SHE'S ALWAYS
DECORATIONS
AND
MM MAYBE I CAN HAVE A GAME IN HERE
WHAT DOES THE BOMBHEAD YOU'RE OFF
BA! I SNATCHED AWAY FROM MY DOLLY BY THE GOALIE.
SNATCH
DON'T YOU DARE! YOU'RE TEAM TI


Next—
WHAT I AM!
?
SIGH!
A STAR PLAYER WHEN I'M BIG!
Soon—
HMM THIS LOOKS LIKE A FOOTBALL SCARF!

YOU'LL NEVER WALK A LONG
SHOOOP
STOP MESSING ABOUT! NOW YOU'VE GOT THAT DONE WALL WHILE I MAKE THE TEA.
YES, MUM.
Meanwhile, later—
I HEY! I KNOW!
IDEA


I GIVE UP!
HAVE A MERRY FOOTBALLING CHRISTMAS, READERS!

# BALL BOY

Near the end of a match—

HUH! WE SHOULD HAVE KICKED-OFF EARLIER—DARKNESS IS CLOSING IN FAST!

Soon—

OUCH! IT'S GETTING VERY MURKY!

BUMP!

Then—

OUCH! FOUL, REFEREE!

THUD!

I AM THE REFEREE!

MATCH ABANDONED. BOYS—BACK TO THE DRESSING ROOMS!

WHICH DIRECTION ARE THEY IN?

JUST FOLLOW ME, PALS!

HEY! THAT'S MY EAR YOU'RE HOLDING ON TO!

STRAIGHT AHEAD, FOLKS!

But—

OUCH!

ERK!

CRUMP!

HEY, B.B.—WE'RE PLAYERS, NOT FISH!

Finally—

WE NEED FLOODLIGHTS—IT'S AS BLACK AS COAL OUT THERE!

CLICK!

BNO 30 12 78

COAL? THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA! GET READY TO START THE MATCH AGAIN, BOYS!

And so, shortly—

GREAT GAME!

IT SURE IS!

WE MAY BE A MINOR TEAM, BUT WE'RE ENTERTAINING THESE MINERS IN RETURN FOR THE LOAN OF THEIR HELMETS!

THIS BALL IS "MINE"!

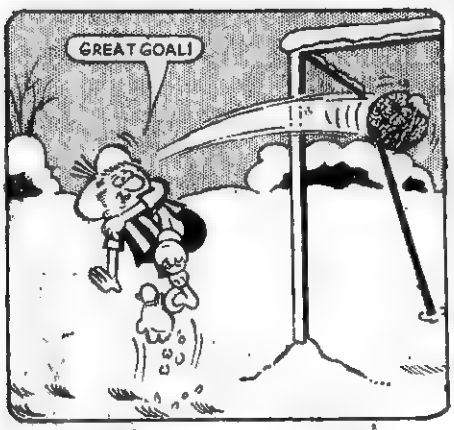
# BALL BOY

COMING FOR A GAME OF FOOTBALL, JIMMY?
WITH ALL THAT SNOW AROUND? YOU MUST BE JOKING, B.B.!

D'YOU FANCY A KICK-ABOUT, BENJY?
NOT LIKELY, B.B.—IT'S TOO SNOWY FOR ME!

WHAT A PAIR OF SOFTIES—STILL, I DON'T NEED THEM.
PLAYING FIELD

I'LL PLAY FOOTBALL ON MY OWN!


GREAT GOAL!

HUH! I'M ONLY KIDDING MYSELF—FOOTBALL'S NO FUN UNLESS YOU'VE GOT OPPONENTS.

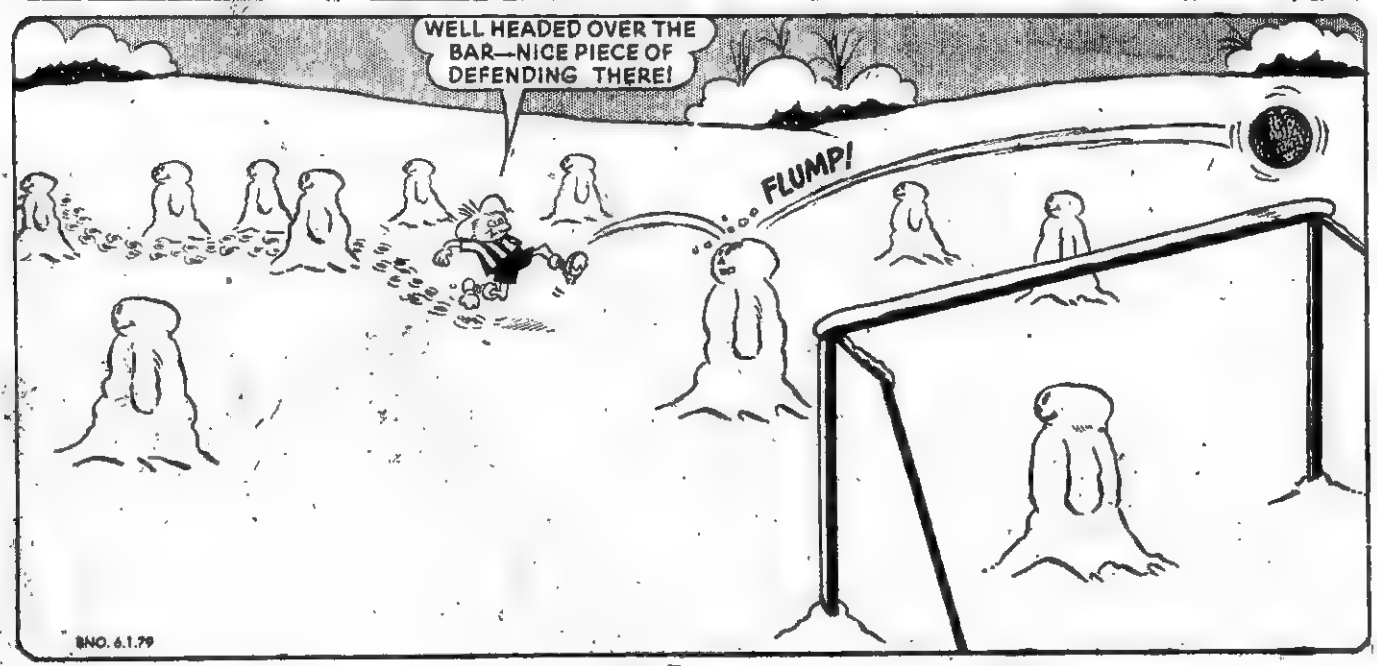
HEY! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS SOONER..?

Later—
MUST AVOID THIS CHAP!

ANOTHER CHALLENGE COMING UP!

CHUCKLE! I'M LEAVING THEM COLD! THIS IS GREAT FUN!

MIGHT CATCH THEM SLEEPING WITH A SNAP-SHOT!


WELL HEADED OVER THE BAR—NICE PIECE OF DEFENDING THERE!
FLUMP!
BNO. 6.1.79

# BALL BOY

WE'RE IN THE FINAL OF THE SCHOOLS' CUP AT WEBLEY STADIUM ON SATURDAY. THIS IS OUR FINAL PRACTICE MATCH.
NICE CONTROL, B.B.!
TEAM MANAGER
ONE LAST PASS THROUGH TO THE WINGER. NOW!
RIGHT!
TERRIBLE—THE FINAL PASS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT!
OOPS!
Soon—
I'LL PASS RIGHT TO YOUR FEET, BOBBY!
BONK!
OOOH!
THAT WAS EVEN WORSE!
Soon—
OK—NOW THE FINAL PASS!
HUH! MY PASSING'S GONE TO PIECES!
OOOF!
OOF!
BOOMPH!
Training ends—
YOUR TACKLING AND DRIBBLING ARE GOOD, BUT REMEMBER, THE FINAL PASS IS ALL IMPORTANT.
That night—
THE FINAL PASS!
THE FINAL PASS!
TURN
SLEEPLESS
SWISH!
SON! SON! I THOUGHT YOU WERE UP AGES AGO! IT'S VERY LATE...
EH?
BNO. 13.1.79
B.B. rushes to the stadium—
OH, NO! THE FINAL'S PAST!
GREAT MATCH!
IT WAS MAGIC!
WEBLEY STA

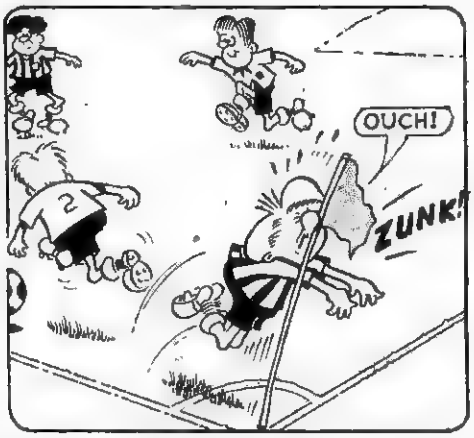
# BALL BOY

HEY, ANDY—COME ON FOR SOME FOOTBALL PRACTISE!
I'VE GOT MY GOOD CLOTHES ON—I'LL HAVE TO GO HOME AND CHANGE.
HAW! HAW! SOFTY! THAT WOULDN'T STOP US PLAYING FOOTBALL!
MAKE SURE DENNIS DOESN'T SPOT YOU!
WE STILL NEED SOME EXTRA PLAYERS—HEY! WAIT A MINUTE . . .
MISTER, CAN I BORROW THESE DUMMIES FOR A WHILE?
CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE
I DON'T MIND.
WHY DID HE ASK ME? I'M ONLY A CUSTOMER!
THEY'RE PACKING THEIR GOAL, LADS—LET'S SEE IF WE CAN BREAK THROUGH THEIR DEFENCE!
WATCH THEY DON'T SELL YOU A DUMMY, B.B.! HAW! HAW!
WE'VE GOT THEM WORRIED—THEY'RE LOSING THEIR HEADS!
BOOT!
FOUL! THAT WAS DEFINITELY HANDLED!
Meanwhile—
WHERE HAVE MY NEW DUMMIES GONE?
CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE
MANAGER
GOOD SHOT, JIMMY!
ERK!
RUINED! WHAT AM I GOING TO MODEL THE NEW FASHIONS ON NOW?
Later. Andy has changed into his old togs—
WHERE'S BALL BOY? I'M READY FOR THAT GAME NOW!
BNO. 20.1.79
But—
YOUR PALS CAN'T PLAY—THEY'RE WEARING MY NEW CLOTHES!
HUH! AND THEY CALLED ME A SOFTY!

# BALL BOY

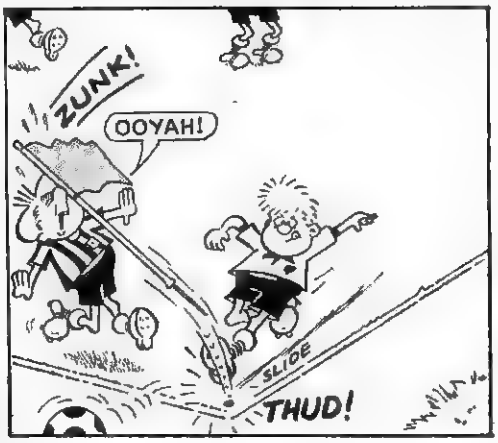
THIS NEW BALL WAS WORTH SAVING UP FOR—IT'S GREAT!

WELL TACKLED!

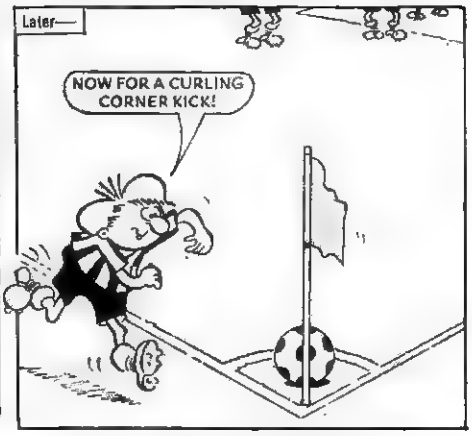

OUCH!
ZUNK!

SNARL! PEST OF A POST!

Soon—
NOW FOR A HIGH CROSS TO THE GOALMOUTH!


ZUNK!
OOYAH!
SLIDE
THUD!

GROAN! THAT CORNER POST'S UP TO ITS TRICKS AGAIN!


Later—
NOW FOR A CURLING CORNER KICK!

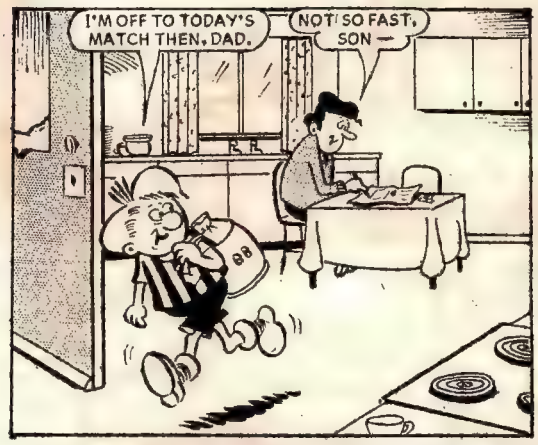
YEOWF!
ZONK!

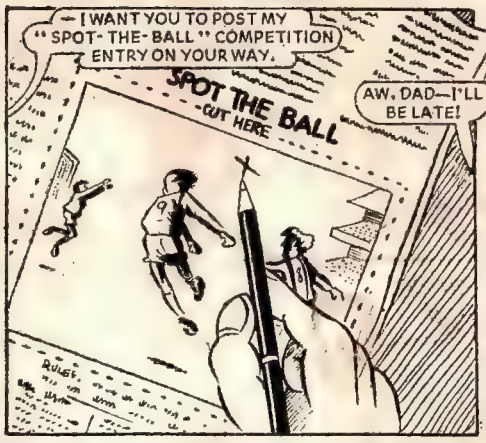
Then—
TIME UP

I'LL COLLECT THE CORNER POST.
I'M GLAD THAT GAME'S OVER! AT LEAST THE PESKY CORNER POST WON'T ANNOY ME ANY MORE!
BNO 27.1.79

WHOOPS! DROPPED IT!
SLIP
WAAH! MY NEW BALL!
HISS!

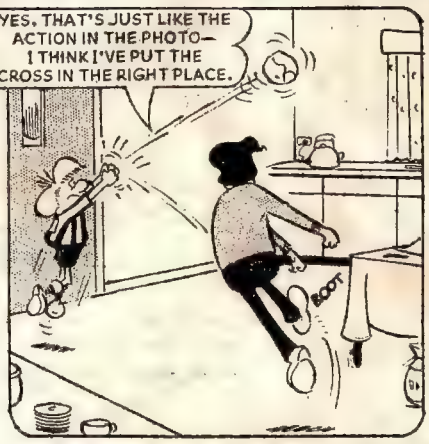
# BALL BOY


I'M OFF TO TODAY'S MATCH THEN, DAD.
NOT SO FAST, SON —

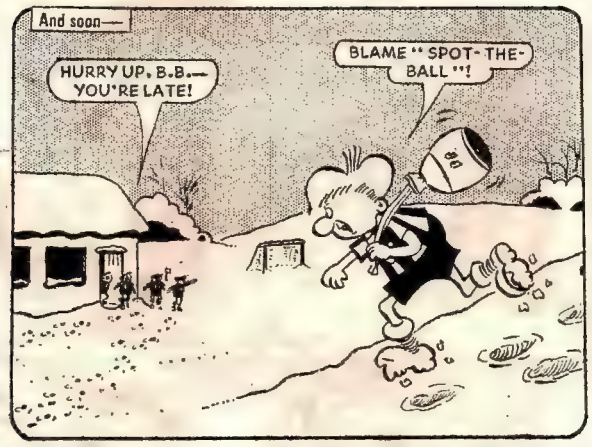

— I WANT YOU TO POST MY "SPOT-THE-BALL" COMPETITION ENTRY ON YOUR WAY.
SPOT THE BALL
-CUT HERE
AW, DAD—I'LL BE LATE!

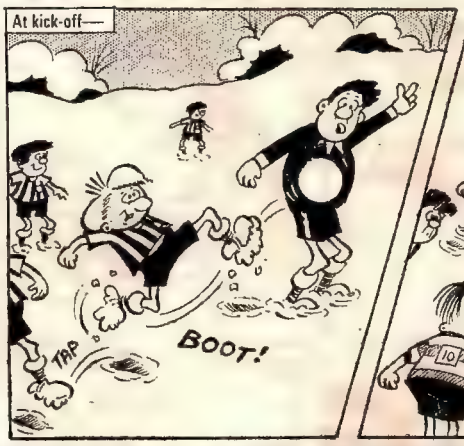
HMM! I WONDER IF I PUT THE CROSS IN THE RIGHT PLACE?

YOU PRETEND YOU'RE THE 'KEEPER IN THE PHOTO, SON— I'LL BE THE FORWARD.
WELL, HURRY UP, DAD!


YES, THAT'S JUST LIKE THE ACTION IN THE PHOTO— I THINK I'VE PUT THE CROSS IN THE RIGHT PLACE.
BOOT

So—
THAT'S DAD'S PESKY ENTRY POSTED—PHEW!


And soon—
HURRY UP, B.B.— YOU'RE LATE!
BLAME "SPOT-THE-BALL"!


At kick-off—
TRAP
BOOT!

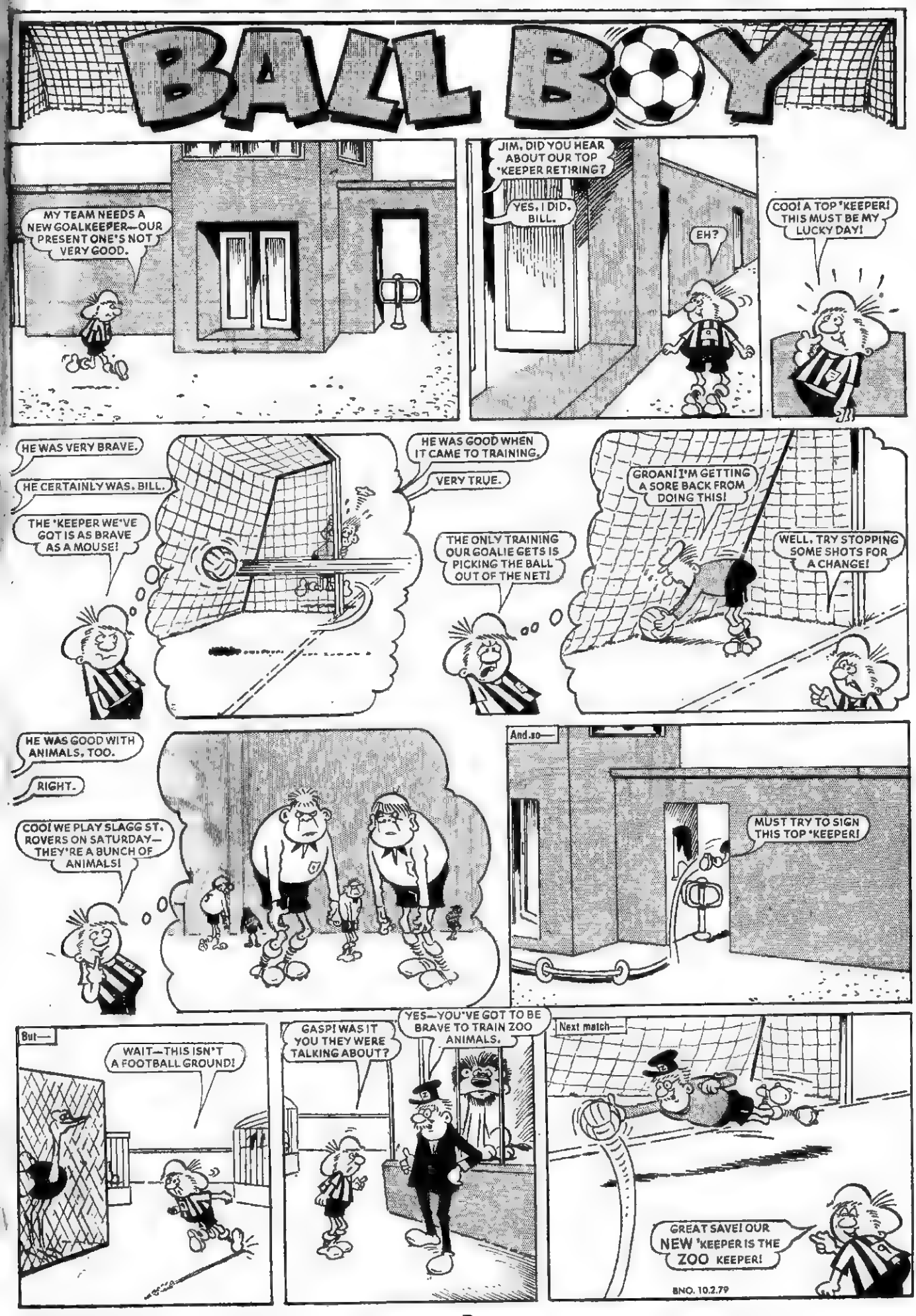
HEY! WHERE DID THE BALL GO?
I CAN'T SEE IT!

HUH! YOU JUST CAN'T USE A WHITE BALL IN THE SNOW!
FOUND IT!
BNO. 3.2.79

And then—
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR IT!
BLACK

HEH! HEH! I'VE REALLY SPOTTED THE BALL NOW, READERS!
MUCH EASIER TO SEE!
PAINTED SPOTS

# BALL BOY


MY TEAM NEEDS A NEW GOALKEEPER—OUR PRESENT ONE'S NOT VERY GOOD.
JIM, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT OUR TOP 'KEEPER RETIRING?
YES, I DID, BILL.
EH?
COO! A TOP 'KEEPER! THIS MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY!
HE WAS VERY BRAVE.
HE CERTAINLY WAS, BILL.
THE 'KEEPER WE'VE GOT IS AS BRAVE AS A MOUSE!
HE WAS GOOD WHEN IT CAME TO TRAINING.
VERY TRUE.
THE ONLY TRAINING OUR GOALIE GETS IS PICKING THE BALL OUT OF THE NET!
GROAN! I'M GETTING A SORE BACK FROM DOING THIS!
WELL, TRY STOPPING SOME SHOTS FOR A CHANGE!
HE WAS GOOD WITH ANIMALS, TOO.
RIGHT.
COO! WE PLAY SLAGG ST. ROVERS ON SATURDAY—THEY'RE A BUNCH OF ANIMALS!
And so—
MUST TRY TO SIGN THIS TOP 'KEEPER!
But—
WAIT—THIS ISN'T A FOOTBALL GROUND!
GASP! WAS IT YOU THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT?
YES—YOU'VE GOT TO BE BRAVE TO TRAIN ZOO ANIMALS.
Next match—
GREAT SAVE! OUR NEW 'KEEPER IS THE ZOO KEEPER!
BNO. 10.2.79

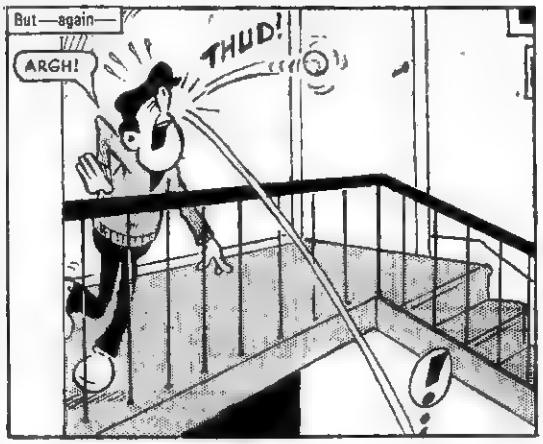
# BALL BOY

B.B. is daydreaming—
I'VE BEATEN THE DEFENCE— NOW TO SHOOT FOR GOAL!

But—
OOPS!
BOOT
BOK!
OUCH!

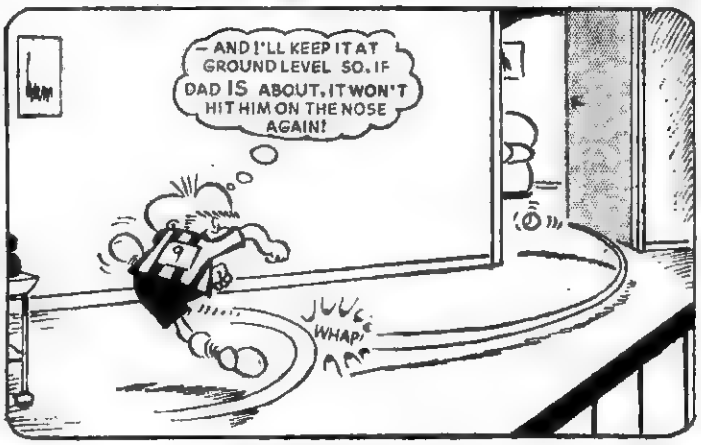
SORRY, DAD!
I'LL LET YOU OFF, THIS TIME!

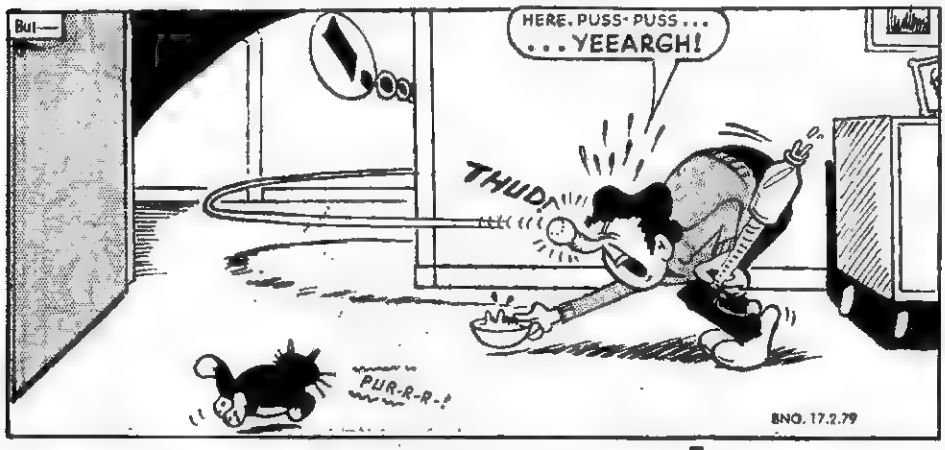
Later—
I'LL TRY MY FAMOUS HIGH LOB.


But—again—
ARGH!
THUD!

ONE MORE "ACCIDENT" LIKE THAT AND I'LL TAKE MY SLIPPER TO YOU!
YES, DAD. SORRY, DAD.

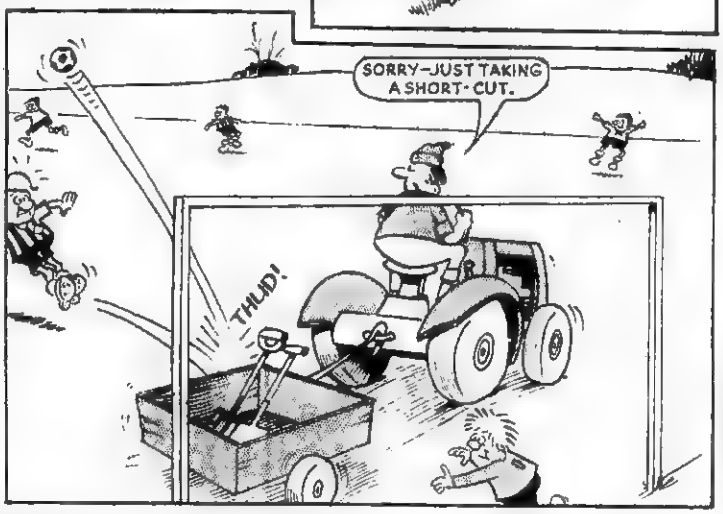
Later still—
NOW TO BEND THE BALL RIGHT INTO THE GOAL—
THE GOAL
DRIBBLE

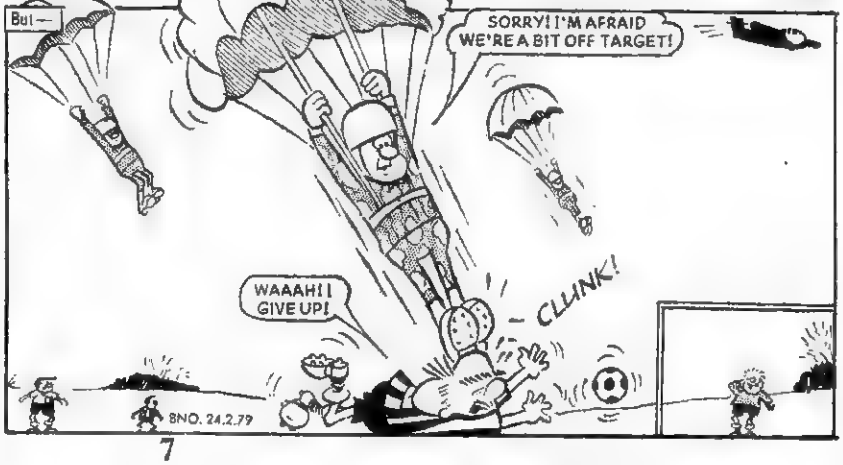

—AND I'LL KEEP IT AT GROUND LEVEL SO, IF DAD IS ABOUT, IT WON'T HIT HIM ON THE NOSE AGAIN!
WHAP!


But—
HERE, PUSS-PUSS . . .
. . . YEEARGH!
THUD
PUR-R-R-!
BNO. 17.2.79

Much later—
HUH! I WISH DAD WOULD GIVE ME THE YELLOW CARD INSTEAD OF THE SLIPPER!

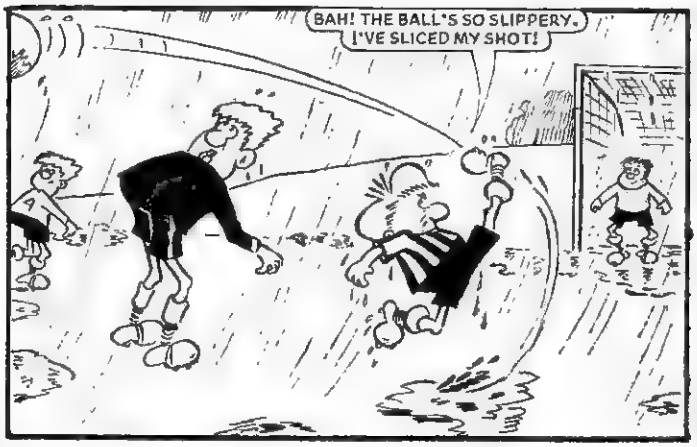
# BALL BOY

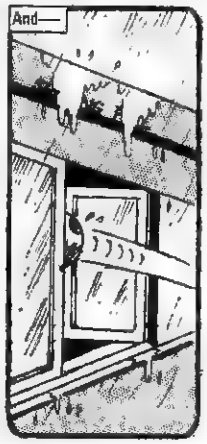





8NO. 24.2.79

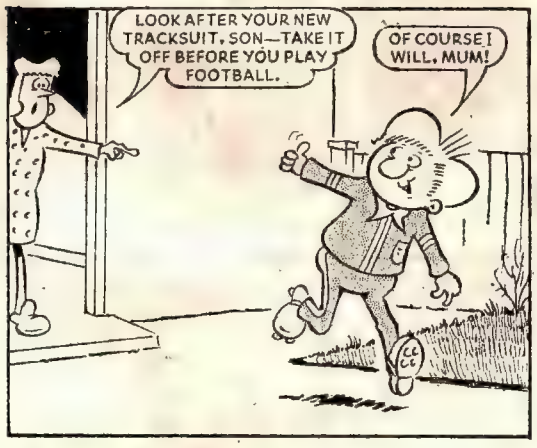
# BALL BOY



SNO. 3.3.79

# BALL BOY

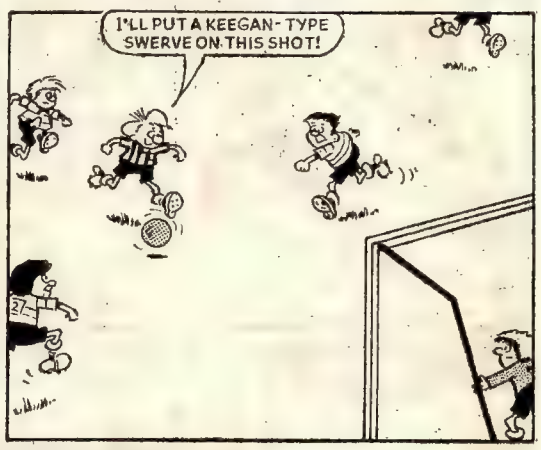

LOOK AFTER YOUR NEW TRACKSUIT, SON—TAKE IT OFF BEFORE YOU PLAY FOOTBALL.
OF COURSE I WILL, MUM!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS GAME.

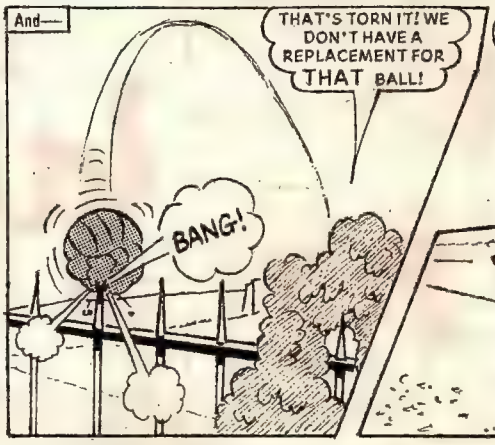
GET READY, 'KEEPER—I'M PUTTING ALL I'VE GOT INTO THIS SHOT!

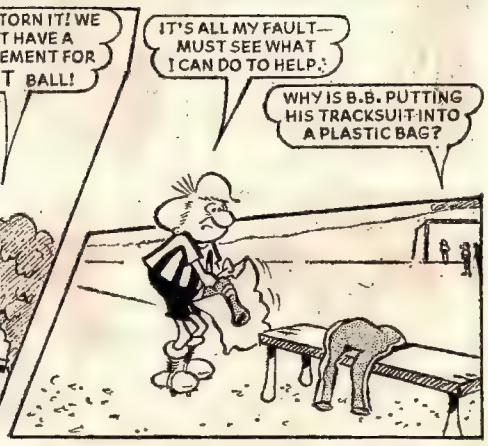
OOOH!
PEST! YOU KNEW THAT OLD BALL HAD A FEW FLAWS IN IT!
BANG!

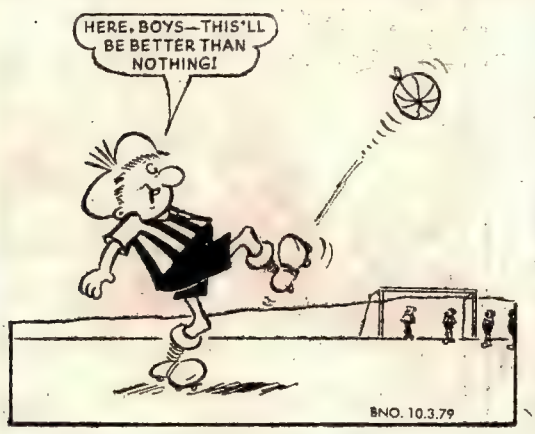
LUCKILY WE'VE GOT ANOTHER BALL.
SWERVE


I'LL PUT A KEEGAN-TYPE SWERVE ON THIS SHOT!

OOPS! IT SWERVED TOO MUCH!


And—
THAT'S TORN IT! WE DON'T HAVE A REPLACEMENT FOR THAT BALL!
BANG!


IT'S ALL MY FAULT—MUST SEE WHAT I CAN DO TO HELP.
WHY IS B.B. PUTTING HIS TRACKSUIT INTO A PLASTIC BAG?


HERE, BOYS—THIS'LL BE BETTER THAN NOTHING!
BNO. 10.3.79

SORRY TO SPOIL YOUR GAME, BUT I'VE GOT TO CUT THIS PITCH NOW.
RIP! GRIND!
ERK!

Back home—
BUT I DID TAKE IT OFF, MUM—THAT WAS THE TROUBLE!

# BALL BOY

GOOD GAME, THIS!

OOPS! SORRY ABOUT THAT!
HUH! I'VE HAD MY CHIPS!
THUMP!

I SUPPOSE YOU'D CALL THAT A CHIP SHOT!
BAD JOKE!

Later—
MISSED! OUCH!

LOOK AT THE SCRATCHES MY STUDS MADE! I SCORED THE GOAL AFTER ALL!
GROAN! HE'S TERRIBLE WHEN HE'S IN A JOKING MOOD!
SHUDDER!
WINCE
WINCE

Soon—
HA! HA! A GOOD PASS TO THE WING!
PAINED
SQUAWK!
OUCH! THE JOKES KEEP GETTING WORSE!

IF THAT BIRD HAD BEEN A TURKEY—IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A "FOWL" MOVE! HEE! HEE!
HOW BAD CAN THEY GET?
GIVE UP AND GET ON WITH THE GAME, B.B.!

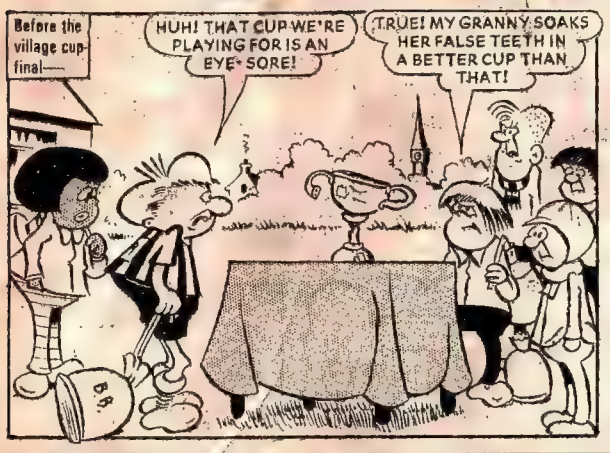
Later, along comes B.B.'s Mum—
AH! THERE'S MY BOY.

REMEMBER AND BE HOME SHARP FOR YOUR TEA, SON.
LOOK OUT, MUM! GET OFF THE PITCH!
BOOT!
BNO 17.3.79

THUD!

A DOZEN EGGS—SMASHED!
SPLAT
CHUCKLE! THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL A GOALMOUTH SCRAMBLE, B.B.!

# BALL BOY


Before the village cup final—
HUH! THAT CUP WE'RE PLAYING FOR IS AN EYE-SORE!
TRUE! MY GRANNY SOAKS HER FALSE TEETH IN A BETTER CUP THAN THAT!
B.B.

I'LL GET US A BETTER CUP BEFORE KICK-OFF.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PUT UP A CUP FOR US, MR GREEN?
HMMM...
GREENGROCER
FRESH EGGS

...WOULD AN EGG CUP DO?

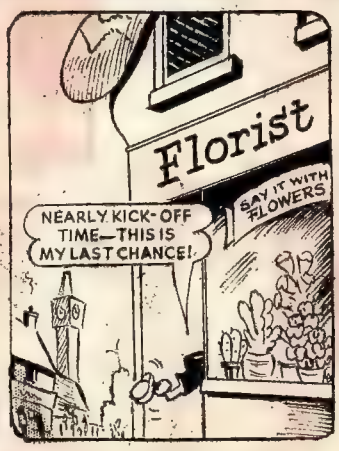
GROCER
HOPELESS! I'LL TRY THE CHINA SHOP.
FRESH EGGS
CHINA

I COULD GIVE YOU A TEA-CUP!
BONE CHINA
BAH!

I'LL TRY THE NEWSAGENT'S—MIGHT HAVE BETTER LUCK THERE.

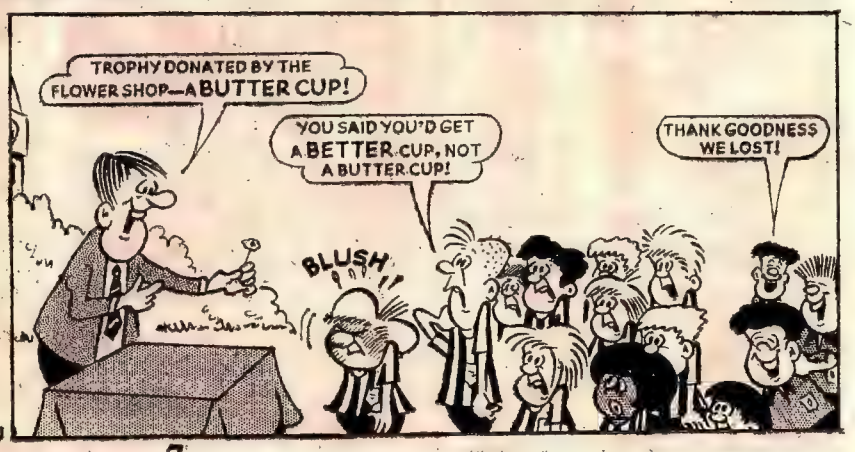
SINCE THIS IS A PAPER SHOP, WOULD A PAPER CUP DO?
CERTAINLY NOT!

I'LL TRY THE FLORISTS.

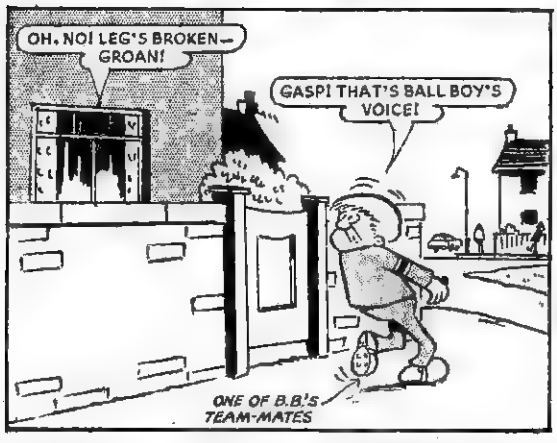

Florist
SAY IT WITH FLOWERS
NEARLY KICK-OFF TIME—THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE!

Later that afternoon—
IT'S ALMOST FULL-TIME. AND WE'RE WINNING! WHY SO GLUM, B.B.?
YOU'LL SEE!

WE'VE WON!
YIPPEE! GO AND COLLECT THE CUP, B.B.!
TIME UP!
BNO. 24.3.79


TROPHY DONATED BY THE FLOWER SHOP—A BUTTER CUP!
YOU SAID YOU'D GET A BETTER CUP, NOT A BUTTER CUP!
BLUSH
THANK GOODNESS WE LOST!

# BALL BOY

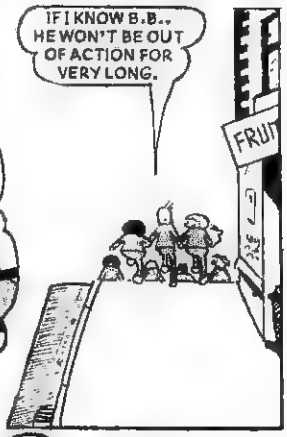

OH, NO! LEG'S BROKEN— GROAN!
GASP! THAT'S BALL BOY'S VOICE!
ONE OF B.B.'S TEAM-MATES

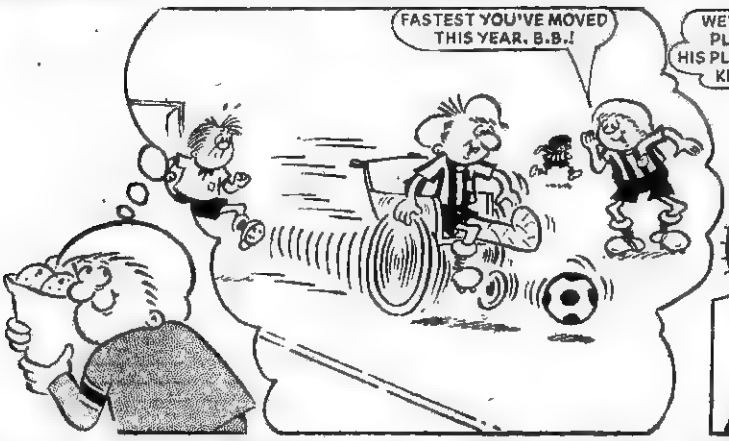
And so—
BAD NEWS! BAD NEWS!

WE'LL HAVE TO CANCEL THIS TRAINING SESSION— B.B.'S BROKEN A LEG!
THAT'S SAD, MAN!
DIMMY

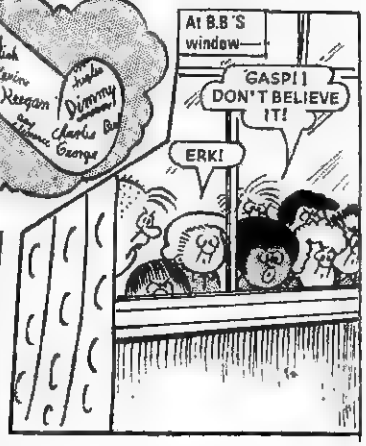
WE'LL HAVE TO PAY HIM A VISIT.
LET'S TAKE SOME GRAPES.

GET ORANGES INSTEAD— HE CAN PRACTISE HEADERS WITH THEM!
RIGHT! AND HE COULD EAT THEM AT HALF-TIME!
FULL OF JUICE
...23...24..

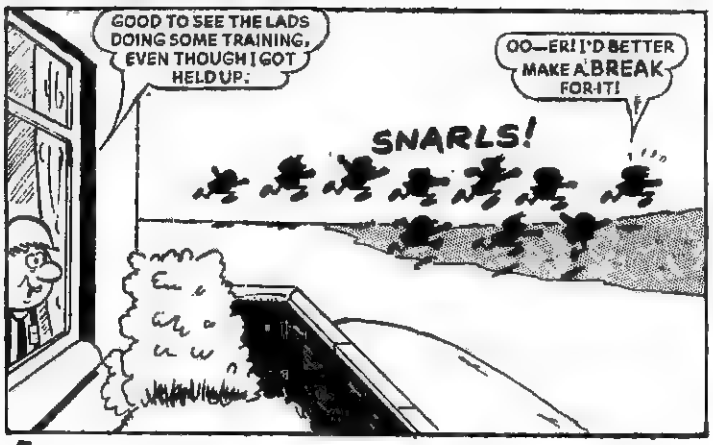

IF I KNOW B.B., HE WON'T BE OUT OF ACTION FOR VERY LONG.
FRUIT


FASTEST YOU'VE MOVED THIS YEAR, B.B.!

WE'LL GET FAMOUS PLAYERS TO SIGN HIS PLASTER—DALGLISH, KEEGAN, ME...
Kenny Dalglish
Kevin Keegan
Dimmy
Charlie George


At B.B.'S window—
GASP! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
ERK!

What they see—
DON'T YOU PRACTISE YOUR TACKLES ON THIS TABLE AGAIN, SON!
SORRY DAD—DIDN'T MEAN TO BREAK THAT LEG OFF!
GLUE
BNO. 31 3 79


GOOD TO SEE THE LADS DOING SOME TRAINING. EVEN THOUGH I GOT HELD UP.
OO—ER! I'D BETTER MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!
SNARLS!

# BALL BOY

YOU KNOW, READERS, I'VE HAD AN AMAZING FOOTBALL CAREER SO FAR...

...I'VE SCORED AGAINST ARGENTINA'S GOALIE...

GOAL!

...AND I'VE PICKED UP A FEW CAPS IN MY TIME...

FUNNY HOW FANS THROW THEIR HATS AWAY WHEN A GOAL IS SCORED.

...I WON A TV AWARD, ONCE...

PHEW! YOU'VE SAVED THE TV, SON—THAT'S WORTH A 50p REWARD!

PUNCH

...I WAS GIVEN THE ENGLISH MANAGER'S POST...

POST THAT, SON—THE LETTER TELLS THE ENGLAND MANAGER WHAT I THINK OF HIS TEAM.

...I HAD CHARLIE GEORGE ASK ME FOR ADVICE...

WHAT'S THE QUICKEST WAY TO THE STADIUM, BALL BOY?

FIRST LEFT, CHARLIE BOY!

...I WAS PRESENTED WITH THE CUP AT WEMBLEY....

HERE'S YOUR TEA, LADDIE—10p, PLEASE.

WEMBLEY STADIUM HOT PIES NOT SO HOT FOOTBALL

WHAT A CAREER IT'S BEEN, AND I'D BE AN EVEN BETTER PLAYER, IF...

...I WASN'T SUCH A DREAMER! GROAN! BACK TO REALITY!

TRUNDLE

BNO 7.4.79

# BALL BOY

AFTER HIM, BENJY—HE'S LEAVING YOU STANDING!
GASP! WHEEZE!

TACKLE HIM, DANNY—BAH! YOU'RE TOO SLOW!

A five-nil defeat later—
LOOK AT YOU LOT—AS STIFF AS OLD WOMEN AND I'M AS FIT AS A FIDDLE!
SORE
TIRED OUT

I'VE GOT TO GET THAT LOT FIT FOR NEXT WEEK'S MATCH—STARTING NOW!

OOH!
AAH!
EEH!
YIPE!
FIRST A NICE HOT BATH—

—THEN A COLD SHOWER WILL TOUGHEN YOU UP!
HOT
VERY COLD
YELPS!

NOW FOR A NONE-TOO-GENTLE MASSAGE!
THWACK!
SMACK!
RUB!

Later—
THERE—YOU'RE ALL FIT FOR OUR NEXT MATCH!
GLOWING HEALTH

Next Saturday—
DAD! I'VE SLEPT IN! GIVE ME A LIFT TO THE FOOTBALL PITCH IN YOUR VAN!
HOP IN THE BACK, SON.

LOT OF TRAFFIC ABOUT—I'LL TAKE A SHORT-CUT.

This is the short-cut—
SHAKE!
BUMP!
BUMP!
SHAKE!
RATTLE!
BUMP!

In the van—
OUCH! OW! EEK! AGH! ERK! OOF!
BUMP!
THUD!
BUMP!
THUMP!
THUD!

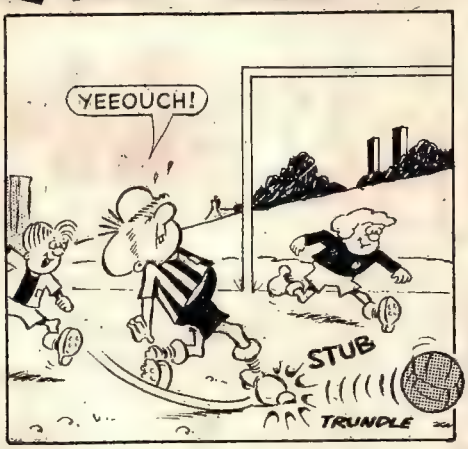
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME SON—THEY'RE ABOUT TO KICK-OFF!
GROAN!

RUN FOR IT, B.B.!
TACKLE HIM, BALL BOY!
HUH! LOOK AT OUR FITNESS FANATIC—THE GAME'S JUST STARTED AND HE'S AS STIFF AS A BOARD!
ACHE
STIFF
SORE
ACHE

BNO 14 4 79

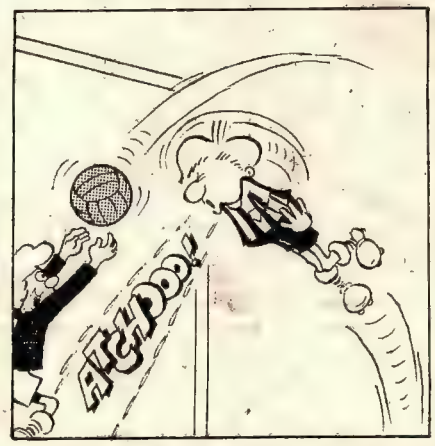
# BALL BOY

WHAT A CHANCE—I MUST SCORE!

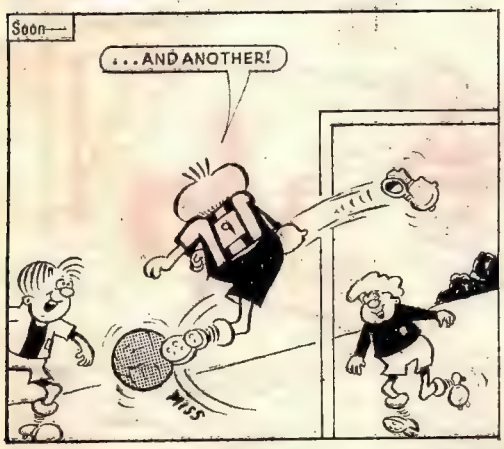

YEEOUCH!
STUB
TRUNDLE

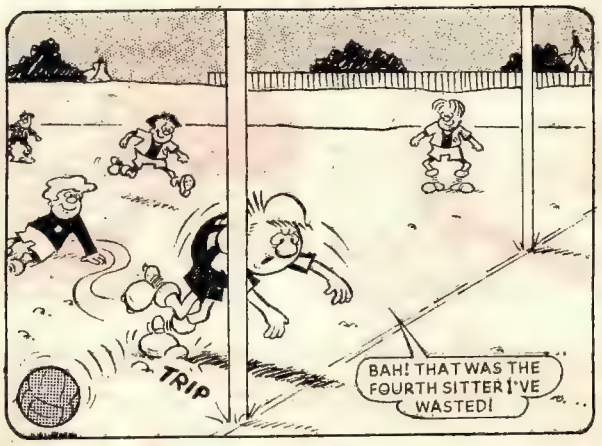
GROAN! I REALLY MISSED A SITTER THERE!

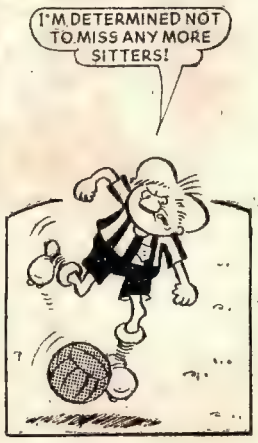
I'M UNMARKED—I'LL SOON HEAD THIS CROSS IN!

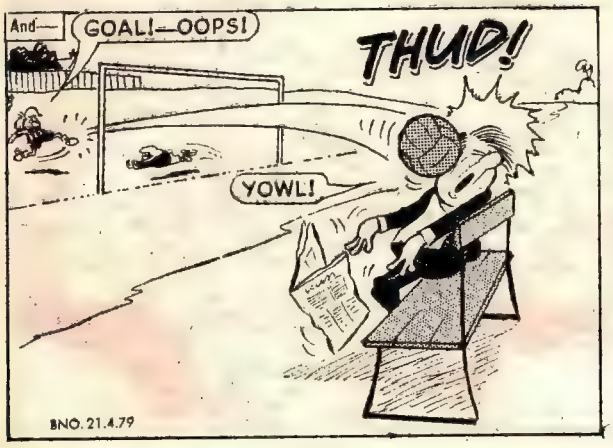

ATCHOO!

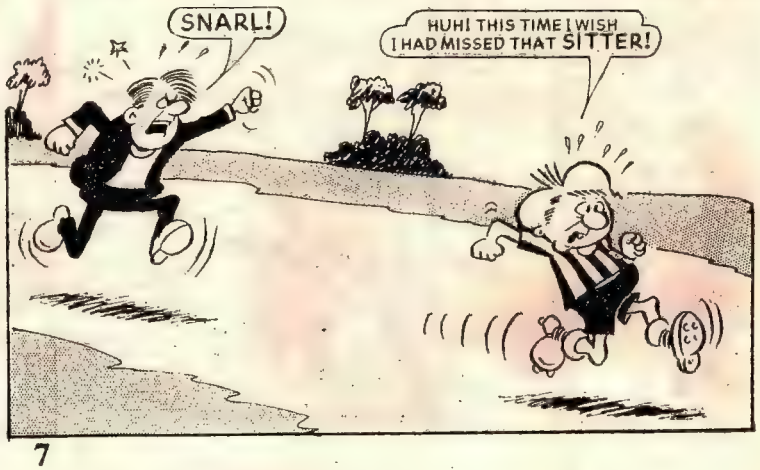
THAT SNEEZE MADE ME MISS ANOTHER SITTER!
HONK!


Soon—
...AND ANOTHER!
MISS


TRIP
BAH! THAT WAS THE FOURTH SITTER I'VE WASTED!

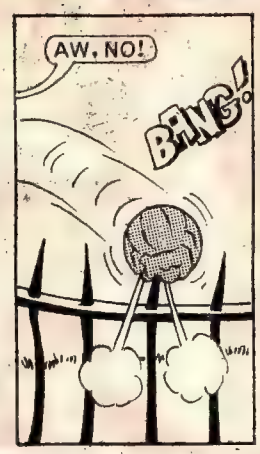

I'M DETERMINED NOT TO MISS ANY MORE SITTERS!


And—
GOAL!—OOPS!
THUD!
YOWL!
BNO. 21.4.79

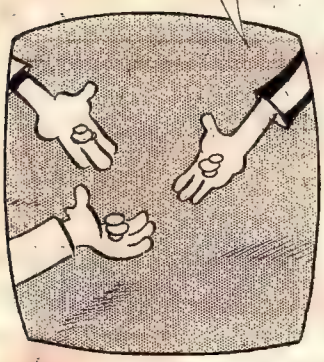

SNARL!
HUH! THIS TIME I WISH I HAD MISSED THAT SITTER!

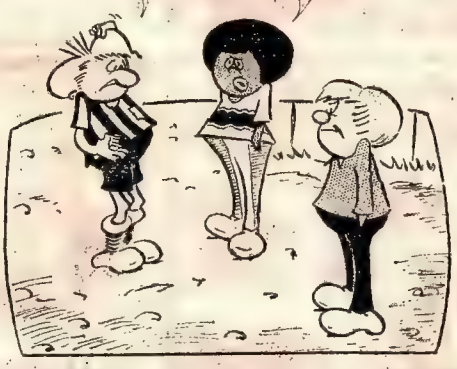
# BALL BOY

OOPS! I SLICED THAT KICK!
BOOT!


AW, NO!
BING!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO USE FOR A BALL NOW?
ER—WE'LL PUT OUR MONEY TOGETHER, AND BUY A NEW ONE.


LET'S SEE—THIRTEEN PENCE BETWEEN US . . .


HMM! THAT WON'T BUY A BALL!
IT WOULD HARDLY BUY A CANDY BALL!

IT'S UP TO YOU TO REPLACE THE BALL, B.B.—YOU BURST IT!
DON'T WORRY—I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO!

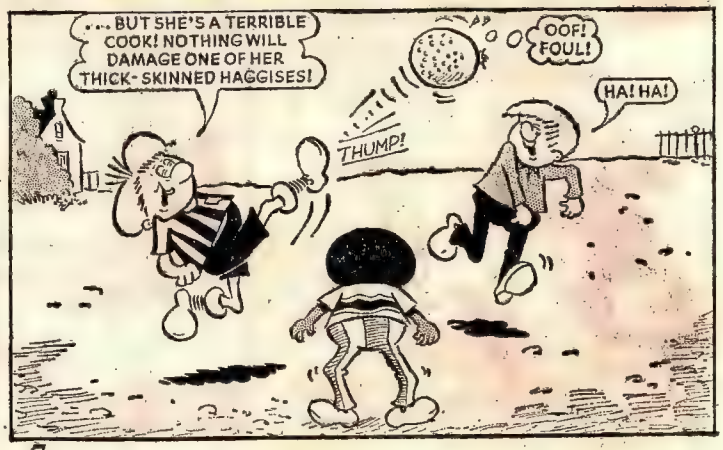
THESE'LL DO.
B.B.'S TURNED SOPPY—PICKING FLOWERS!

THANK YOU, BALL BOY.
GASP! HE'S GIVING THEM TO MRS McTAVISH! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

HE'S GOING IN!
HUH! PROBABLY GOING TO DO SOME HOUSEWORK FOR HER!

HUH! IF HE'S TRYING TO RAISE MONEY BY GOING ERRANDS, IT'LL TAKE HIM DAYS TO EARN A NEW FOOTBALL!

THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME, B.B.!
WE WANT A BALL NOW—NOT WHEN WE'RE TOO OLD TO PLAY FOOTBALL!
NICE PERSON, MRS McTAVISH . . .
BNO. 5.5.79

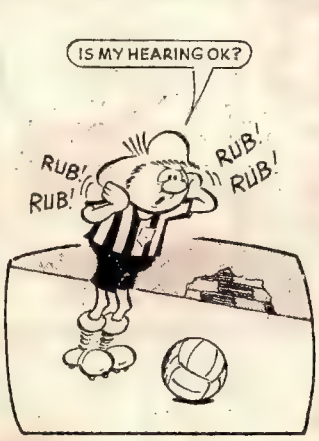

. . . BUT SHE'S A TERRIBLE COOK! NOTHING WILL DAMAGE ONE OF HER THICK-SKINNED HAGGISES!
THUMP!
OOF! FOUL!
HA! HA!

# BALL BOY

I HOPE WE GET A GOOD REFEREE FOR TODAY'S MATCH.
DRIBBLE

NEWSPAPER
THE REF. WE HAD LAST WEEK WAS THE WORST I'VE EVER KNOWN.
FOUL! I SAW YOU KICK THAT POOR BALL ON PURPOSE!
E-EH?

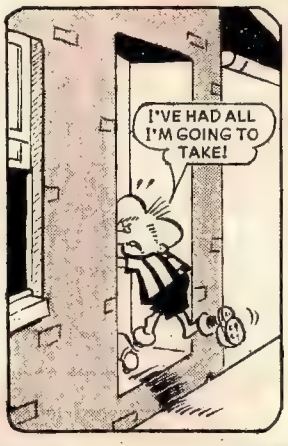
Then—
HUH! MY BUDGIE KNOWS MORE ABOUT FOOTBALL THAN YOU!
WHAT?

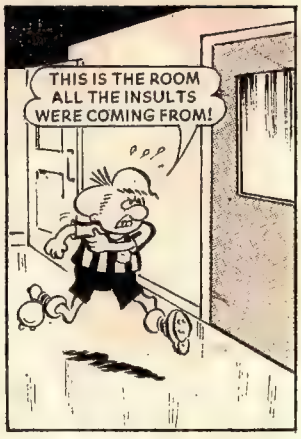

IS MY HEARING OK?
RUB! RUB!
RUB! RUB!

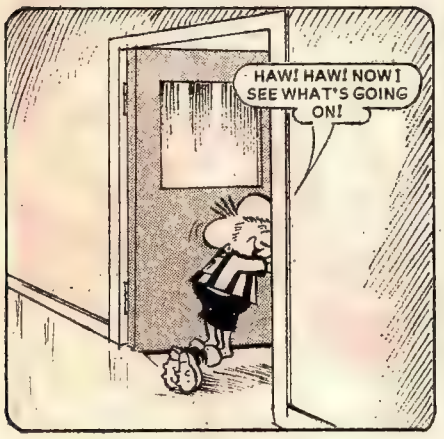
SO! YOU'RE DEAF AS WELL AS BLIND!

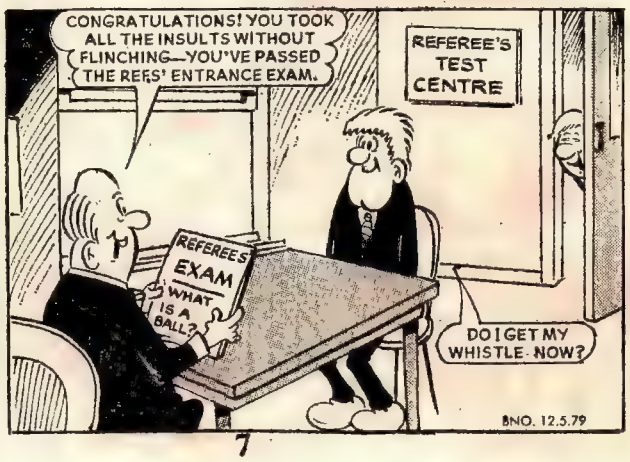
I DID HEAR CORRECTLY!

YOU'RE NOT FIT TO SET FOOT ON A FOOTBALL PITCH!
THIS IS GETTING A BIT PERSONAL!


I'VE HAD ALL I'M GOING TO TAKE!

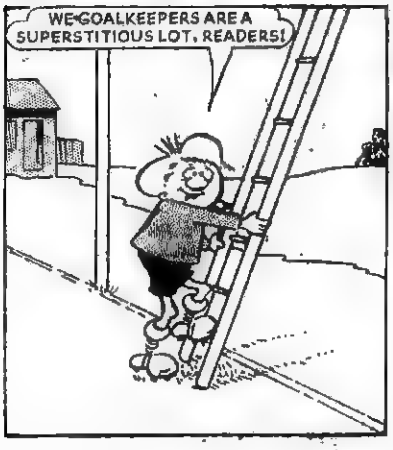

THIS IS THE ROOM ALL THE INSULTS WERE COMING FROM!

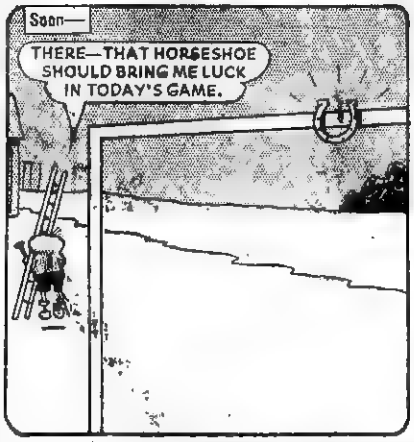

HAW! HAW! NOW I SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

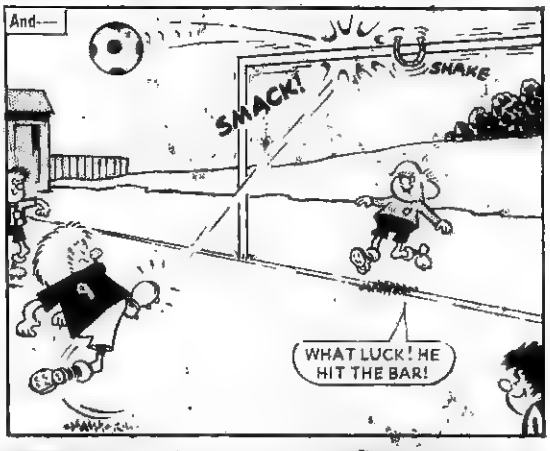

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU TOOK ALL THE INSULTS WITHOUT FLINCHING—YOU'VE PASSED THE REFS' ENTRANCE EXAM.
REFEREE'S TEST CENTRE
REFEREE'S EXAM
WHAT IS A BALL?
DO I GET MY WHISTLE NOW?
BNO. 12.5.79

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THAT ONLY THE REFEREE GETS INSULTS LIKE THOSE!

# BALL BOY


WE GOALKEEPERS ARE A SUPERSTITIOUS LOT, READERS!


Soon—
THERE—THAT HORSESHOE SHOULD BRING ME LUCK IN TODAY'S GAME.


And—
SMACK!
SHAKE
WHAT LUCK! HE HIT THE BAR!

REBOUND
OOOW! MY FOOT!
FALL-L
KLUNK!

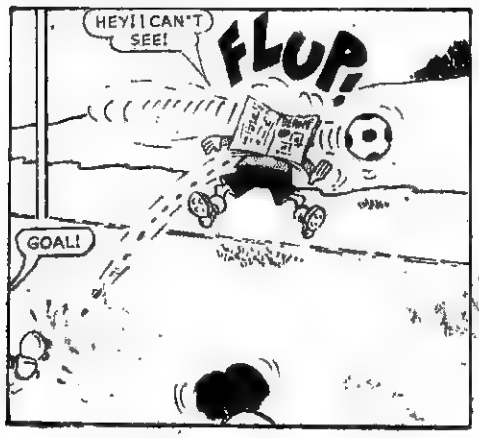
GOAL!
OOH! AAGH! YOWL!
NOD

Soon—
HUH! POOR SHOT—B.B. WILL SAVE THAT EASILY!
SOFT LOB
HEY! WHAT'S THAT I SEE?

COO! A FOUR-LEAFED CLOVER—THAT MEANS REALLY GOOD LUCK! THEY WON'T SCORE AGAIN!

BAH! THEY JUST HAVE!
EH?
GOAL!

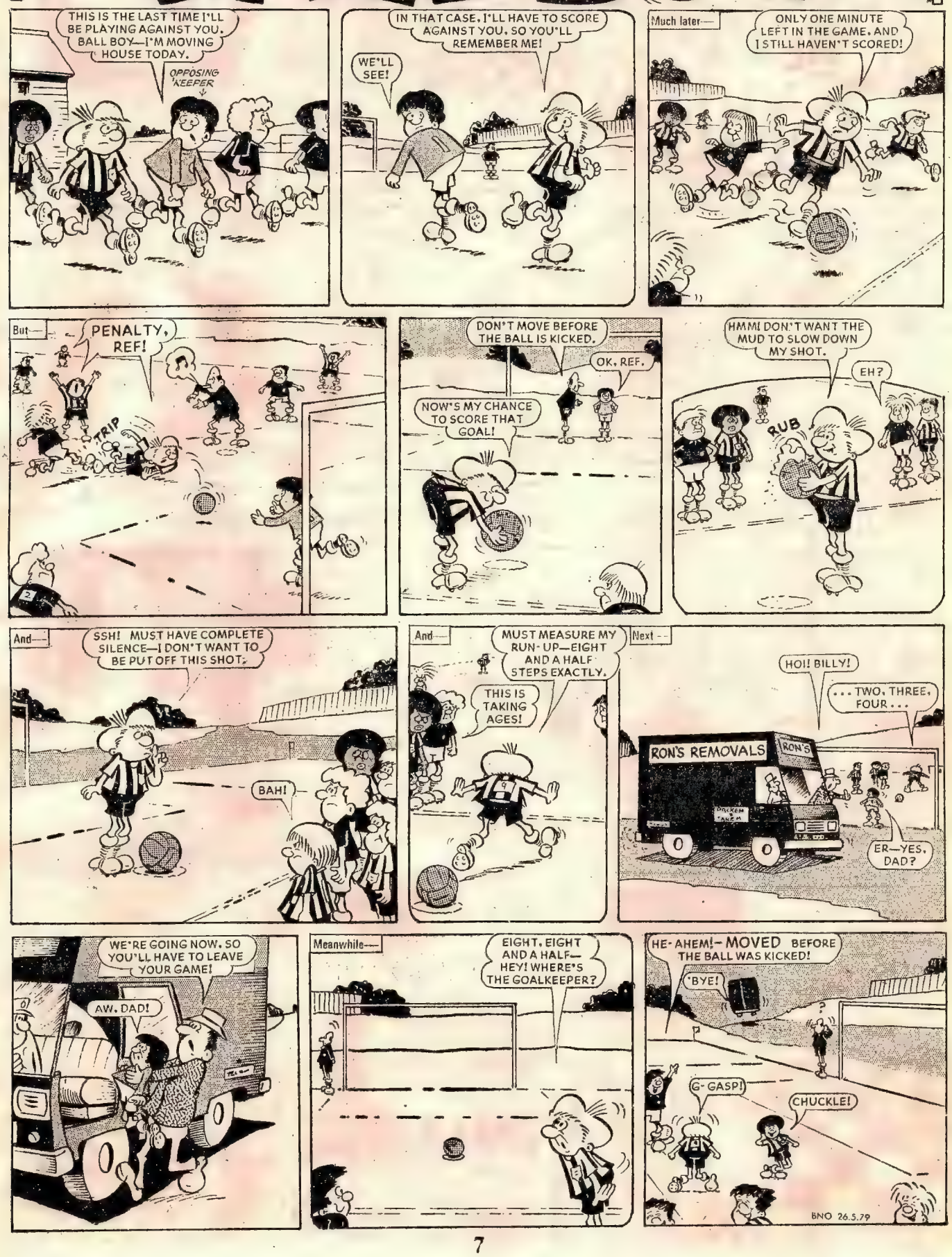
Later—
WOW! STRONG WIND, THAT!
I'M READY FOR THIS ONE!


HEY! I CAN'T SEE!
FLUP!
GOAL!

HUH! WHISKERS WASN'T EXACTLY A LUCKY BLACK CAT, WAS HE?
THE NIBLIN
BMO. 19.5.79

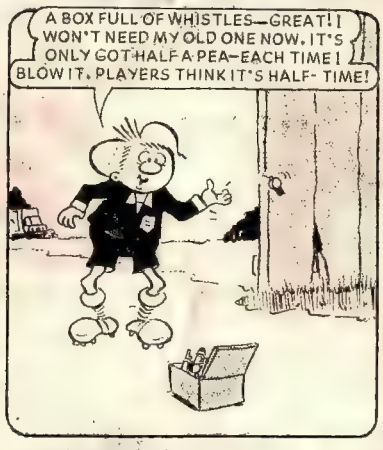
Full time—
BAD LUCK, B.B.!
LUCK? LUCK? DON'T MENTION THAT WORD TO ME! BAH!

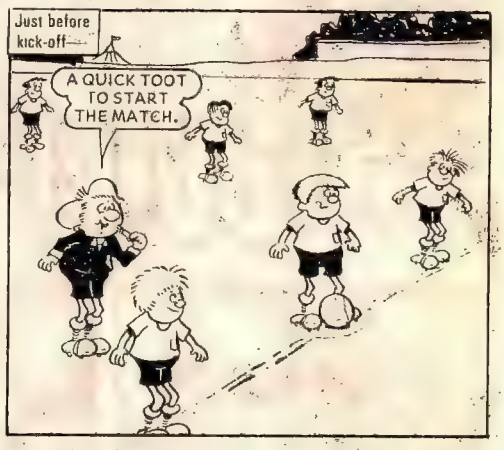
# BALL BOY

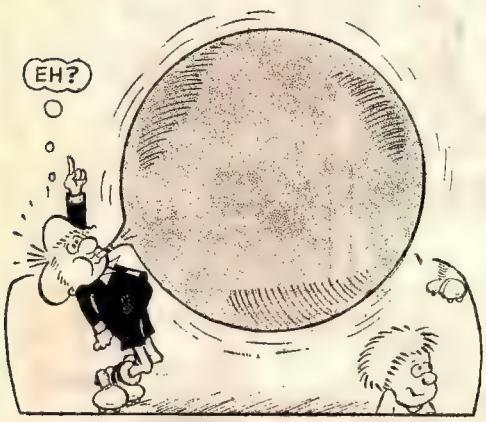

THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'LL BE PLAYING AGAINST YOU, BALL BOY—I'M MOVING HOUSE TODAY.
OPPOSING 'KEEPER
IN THAT CASE, I'LL HAVE TO SCORE AGAINST YOU, SO YOU'LL REMEMBER ME!
WE'LL SEE!
Much later—
ONLY ONE MINUTE LEFT IN THE GAME, AND I STILL HAVEN'T SCORED!
But—
PENALTY, REF!
TRIP
DON'T MOVE BEFORE THE BALL IS KICKED.
OK, REF.
NOW'S MY CHANCE TO SCORE THAT GOAL!
HMM! DON'T WANT THE MUD TO SLOW DOWN MY SHOT.
EH?
RUB
And—
SSH! MUST HAVE COMPLETE SILENCE—I DON'T WANT TO BE PUT OFF THIS SHOT.
BAH!
And—
MUST MEASURE MY RUN-UP—EIGHT AND A HALF STEPS EXACTLY.
THIS IS TAKING AGES!
Next—
HOI! BILLY!
...TWO, THREE, FOUR...
RON'S REMOVALS
RON'S
ER—YES, DAD?
WE'RE GOING NOW, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE YOUR GAME!
AW, DAD!
Meanwhile—
EIGHT, EIGHT AND A HALF—HEY! WHERE'S THE GOALKEEPER?
HE-AHEM!—MOVED BEFORE THE BALL WAS KICKED!
'BYE!
G-GASP!
CHUCKLE!
BNO 26.5.79

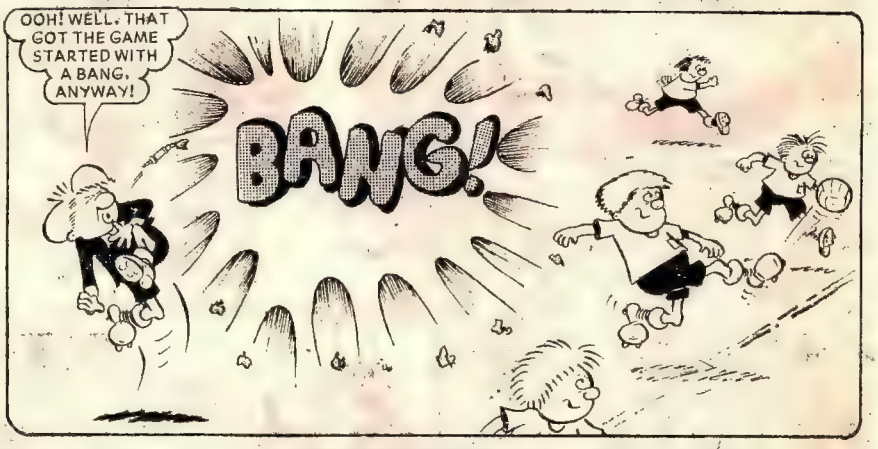
# BALL BOY

I'M IN CHARGE OF A GAME TODAY, READERS.


A BOX FULL OF WHISTLES—GREAT! I WON'T NEED MY OLD ONE NOW. IT'S ONLY GOT HALF A PEA—EACH TIME! BLOW IT, PLAYERS THINK IT'S HALF- TIME!


Just before kick-off—
A QUICK TOOT TO START THE MATCH.


EH?


OOH! WELL, THAT GOT THE GAME STARTED WITH A BANG, ANYWAY!
BANG!

B.B. tries another whistle—
THAT WAS A FOUL!

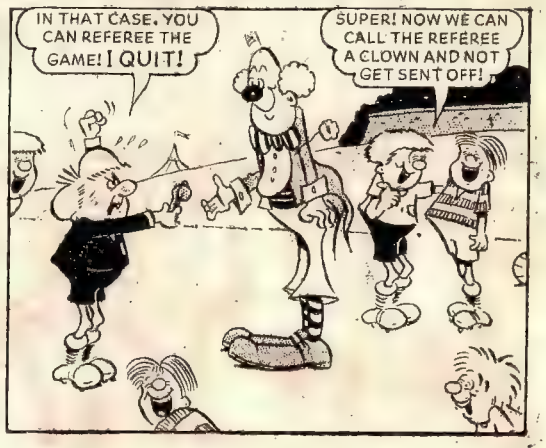
But—
!
FLOOOP!

HA! HA!
NOW YOUR FACE MATCHES YOUR REFEREE'S OUTFIT, BALL BOY!
HA!HA!

Then—
SNARL! A TOOT ON THIS NEW WHISTLE WILL STOP THE LAUGHS!
HO!HO!
HEE!HEE!

HAW! HAW! SOAPY BUBBLES! WE SHOULD HAVE A "CLEAN" GAME NOW!
GLURGLE! GLUG!
BNO. 2.6.79

Then—
POCO THE CLOWN
LOOKS LIKE THAT BOY FOUND THE TRICK WHISTLES THAT FELL OFF MY TRAILER.

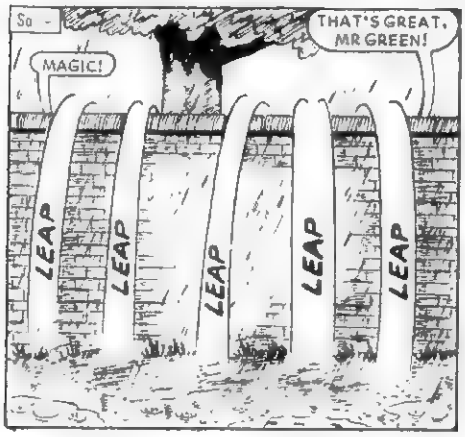

IN THAT CASE, YOU CAN REFEREE THE GAME! I QUIT!
SUPER! NOW WE CAN CALL THE REFEREE A CLOWN AND NOT GET SENT OFF!

# BALL BOY

MY BALL! OOF!
NO CHANCE!
TAKE THAT!
GRUNT!
SNARL!
THUMP!
CRUNCH!
BOOT!
ZOOM!

Suddenly - -
QUICK! TAKE SHELTER, LADS—WE CAN'T PLAY IN THIS!

LOOKS LIKE THE RAIN'S ON FOR THE DAY, MAN.
THE WEEK, YOU MEAN!
I'VE GOT A PLACE YOU CAN PLAY IN OUT OF THE RAIN, BOYS!


So -
MAGIC!
THAT'S GREAT, MR GREEN!
LEAP
LEAP
LEAP
LEAP
LEAP

OH, CAREFUL, ANDY—DON'T TACKLE SO HARD!
GENTLE TACKLE

SLOW DOWN, MAN! DON'T RUN SO FAST!
SLOW TIP-TOE
TRUNDLE

THAT'S AS HARD AS I DARE SHOOT!

PHEW! GOOD SAVE, LADS!

Then
!
!
GASP! DON'T HEAD IT, B.B.!

I WASN'T GOING TO!
GENTLE BLOW
PHEW!

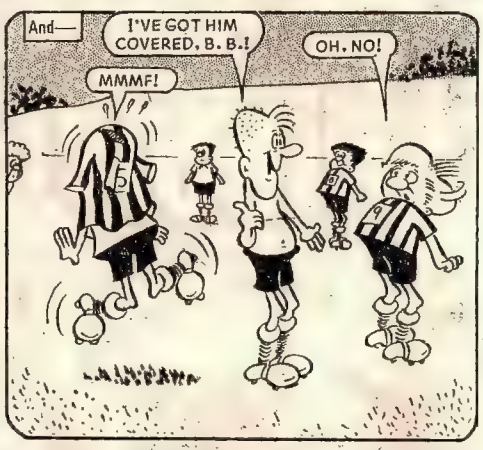
After the game
IT WAS KIND OF MR GREEN TO OFFER US A PLACE TO PLAY . . .
BNO 16 6 79

. . . BUT PLAYING INSIDE A GREENHOUSE TAKES THE FUN OUT OF THE GAME!

# BALL BOY

YOU'RE CENTRE-HALF TODAY, DIMMY—IT'S YOUR JOB TO COVER THEIR STRIKER.

ER—I'VE GOT THAT, I THINK.
PAINFUL THINK

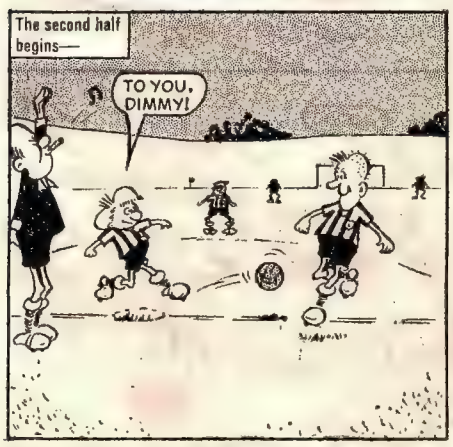

And—
I'VE GOT HIM COVERED, B.B.!
MMMF!
OH, NO!

Shortly—
WATCH ME BEND THIS BALL!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BEND IT —IT'S THE ONLY BALL WE'VE GOT!
OOOF!
THUD!
OH, NO!

Soon—
SURELY A FREE-KICK FOR US, REF.!
NO—PLAY ON!
DUNT!

WELL IF I CAN'T HAVE A FREE-KICK, CAN I PAY FOR ONE?
SIGH!

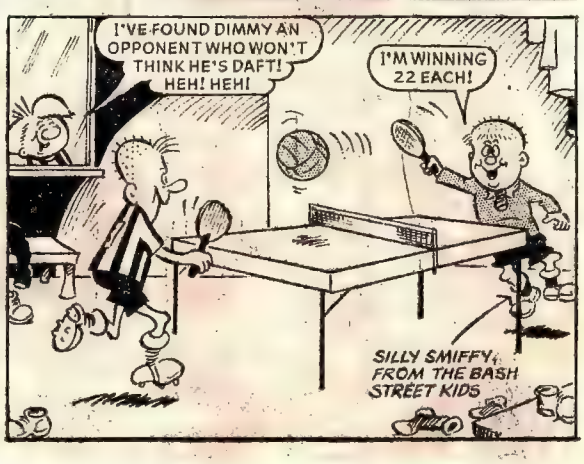

The second half begins—
TO YOU, DIMMY!

NO, DIMMY! WE TURNED ROUND FOR THE SECOND HALF—YOU'VE SCORED AGAINST US!
BOOT!
TURN

GET HIM OFF, B.B.!
HE'S RUINING THE GAME!
BRING ON THE SUBSTITUTE!

AW, PLEASE LET ME PLAY, B.B.—I LIKE FOOTBALL!
POOR DIMMY—HE MEANS WELL. I HATE TAKING HIM OFF.
BNO. 30.6.79

Then—
DON'T WORRY, DIMMY—I KNOW SOMEONE WHO WILL PLAY FOOTBALL WITH YOU!
OH, GREAT!


I'VE FOUND DIMMY AN OPPONENT WHO WON'T THINK HE'S DAFT! HEH! HEH!
I'M WINNING 22 EACH!
SILLY SMIFFY, FROM THE BASH STREET KIDS

# BALL BOY

MUDCHESTER UNITED 1
LIVERTON 0
SUPER ELECTRIC SCOREBOARD, EH, READERS?

Later—
TIME FOR OUR MATCH NOW—WE'RE PLAYING GREEN STREET UNITED.

Soon—
WE'RE WINNING 3-2!
NO—WE ARE!
IT'S A 3-2 DRAW FOR US!
VERY DIM
NO—FOR US!

STOP! STOP! I KNOW WHAT WE NEED . . .

Soon—
NOW WE CAN KEEP TRACK OF THE GOALS ON OUR OWN SCOREBOARD—NO MORE ARGUING!
B.B.'S TEAM
GREEN STREET UNITED
0
0

The game starts from scratch—
GOAL! PUT 1-0 UP ON THE SCOREBOARD, KID!
OK!

Later—
ANOTHER GOAL FOR B.B.'S TEAM!
MARK THAT ONE UP, KID!
B.B.'S TEAM
GREEN STREET UNITED
9
1

10-1, AND IT'S NEARLY FULL-TIME!
B.B.'S TEAM
GREEN STREET UNITED
10
1

AH! THE FINAL WHISTLE. I CAN GO HOME FOR MY TEA NOW.
B.B.'S TEAM
GREEN STREET UNITED
SNAP!
0
1
PHEEP!
THUD!
BNO. 7.7.79

WE WON 10-1!—YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH THE SCOREBOARD!
GULP!

BAH! WE DIDN'T LOSE!
NOW, B.B.—YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH THE SCOREBOARD—REMEMBER? HEH! HEH!
B.B.'S TEAM
GREEN STREET UNITED
0
1

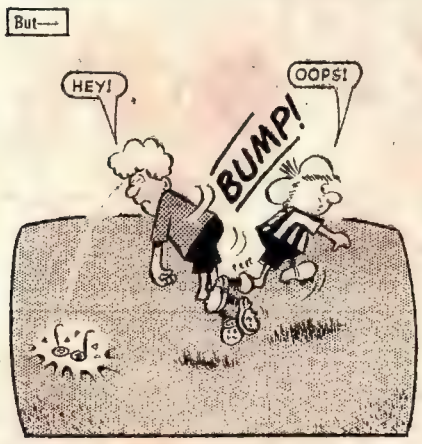
# BALL BOY

THIS IS TERRIBLE! I HAVEN'T SLEPT FOR DAYS!
MUDCHESTER UTD.
PACE
IT'S THREE IN THE MORNING, BUT I MUST BE ON MY GUARD ALL THE TIME!
I'LL JUST CHECK THERE'S NO GANG OF INTERNATIONAL CROOKS LURKING OUTSIDE!
NO SIGN OF ANY PROWLERS.
ZZZZ
YERK! WHATWASTHAT?
YEOWL!
OOOH! WHAT A FRIGHT!
SLAM!
ERK! SOMEONE'S MOVING AROUND IN MY ROOM!
SHUFFLE!
I KNEW SOME VILLAINS WOULD GET TO HEAR OF IT EVENTUALLY!
I MUST BE BRAVE! CHARGE!
CHARGE
DON'T MOVE! ME AND MY FOUR HUNDRED MEN HAVE GOT YOU SURROUNDED!
DIVE
DAD!
YES, ME! I CAME TO TELL YOU TO STOP PACING AROUND! IT'S BEEN THE SAME EVERY NIGHT THIS WEEK, AND I CAN'T GET TO SLEEP!
BNO. 14.7.79
WELL, IT'S NOT EVERY YEAR WE WIN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD THIRD DIVISION RUNNERS-UP CUP! VALUABLE TROPHY, THAT!
AHEM!

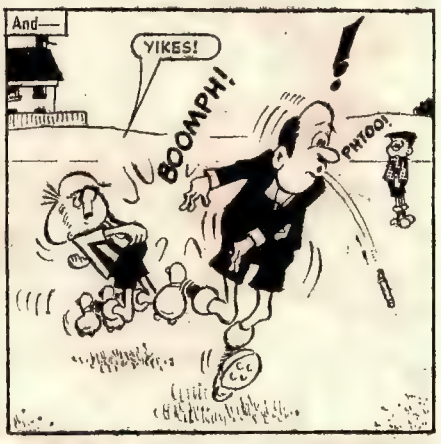
# BALL BOY

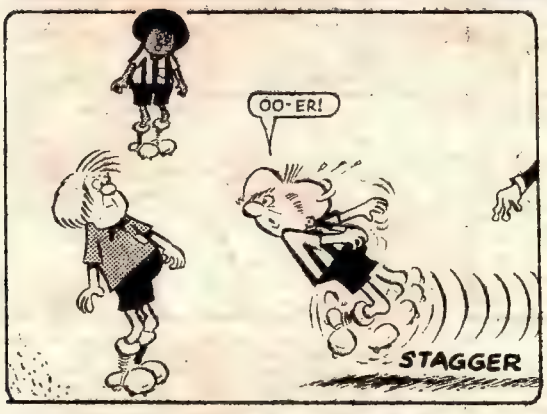
FREE KICK, REF!

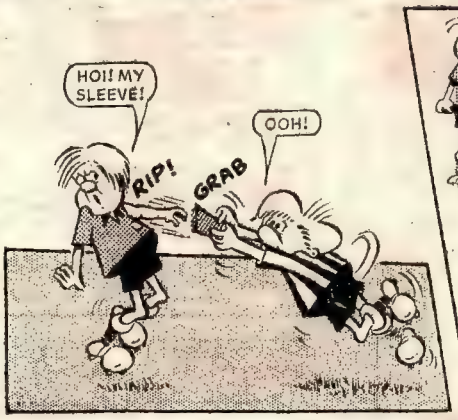
B.B.—COME AND TAKE THE FREE KICK!
OK!


But—
HEY!
OOPS!
BUMP!

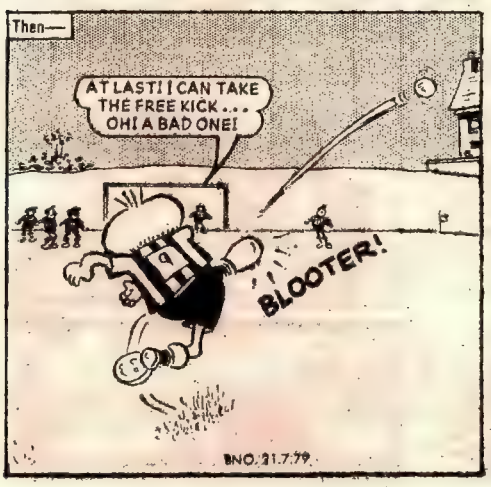
YOU'VE BROKEN MY SPECS!
SORRY!

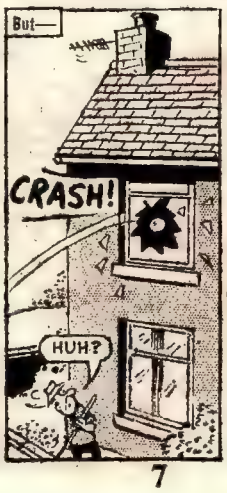

And—
YIKES!
BOOMPH!
PHTOOI!


OO-ER!
STAGGER


HOI! MY SLEEVE!
RIP!
GRAB
OOH!

SORRY! SORRY!
MY WHISTLE!
LAST PHEEP!
CRUMP!

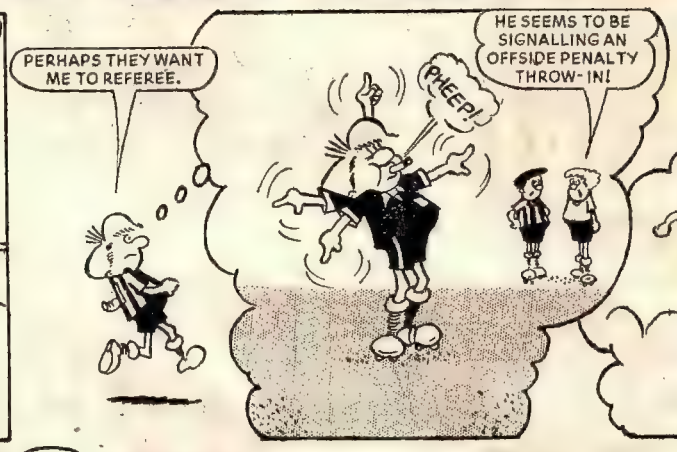

Then—
AT LAST! I CAN TAKE THE FREE KICK... OH! A BAD ONE!
BLOOTER!
BNO. 21.7.79.

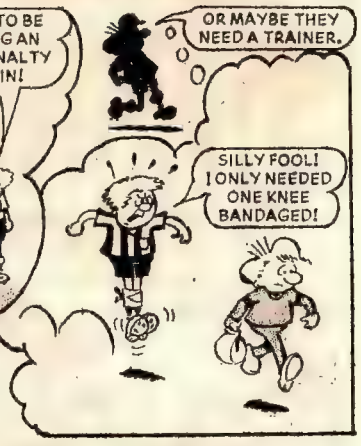

But—
CRASH!
HUH?

YOU'LL PAY FOR MY WINDOW!
AND MY WHISTLE!
AND A NEW JERSEY!
HUH! THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A FREE KICK!

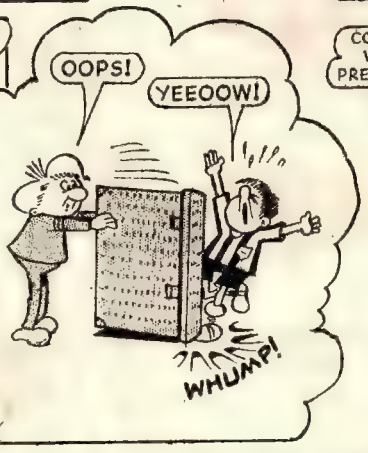
# BALL BOY

I'M NOT PLAYING TODAY, BUT I'VE BEEN TOLD TO REPORT, JUST IN CASE I'M NEEDED.


PERHAPS THEY WANT ME TO REFEREE.
PHEEP!
HE SEEMS TO BE SIGNALLING AN OFFSIDE PENALTY THROW-IN!


OR MAYBE THEY NEED A TRAINER.
SILLY FOOL! I ONLY NEEDED ONE KNEE BANDAGED!

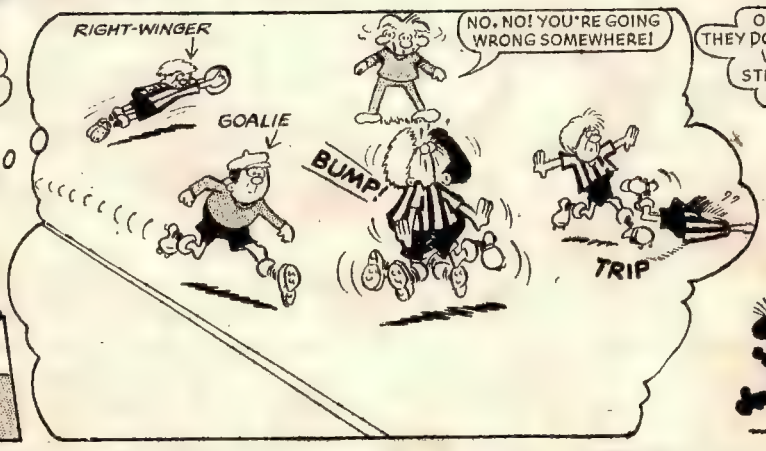
HOPE THEY DON'T EXPECT ME TO CARRY THE HAMPER.
HUH! THAT'S OUR STAR LEFT-WINGER OUT OF THE GAME!

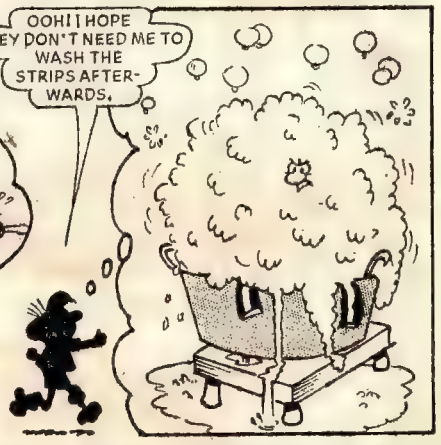

OOPS!
YEEOOW!
WHUMP!

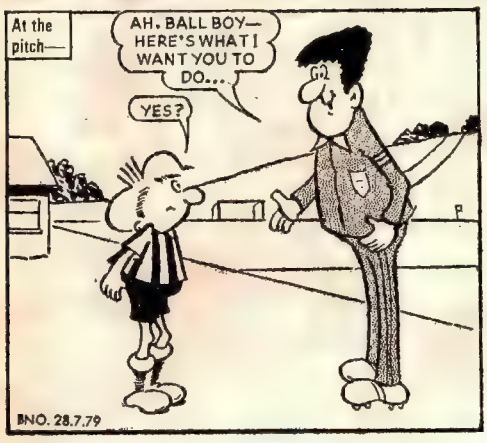
COULD BE THEY WANT ME TO PRESENT THE CUP.

TAKE THAT—I WANTED THE OTHER TEAM TO WIN!
GLUB!

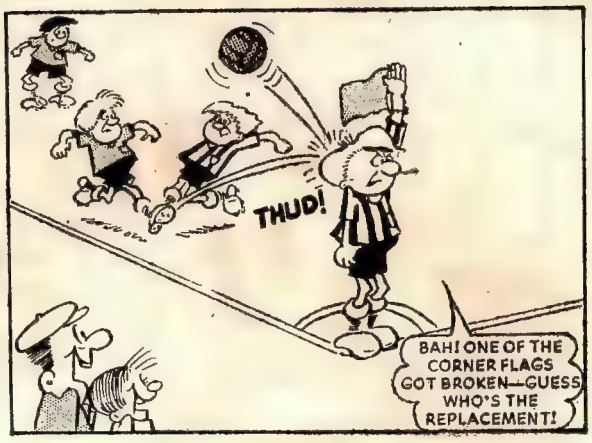
PERHAPS THEY WANT ME TO PLAN THE TEAM TACTICS.


RIGHT-WINGER
GOALIE
NO, NO! YOU'RE GOING WRONG SOMEWHERE!
BUMP!
TRIP

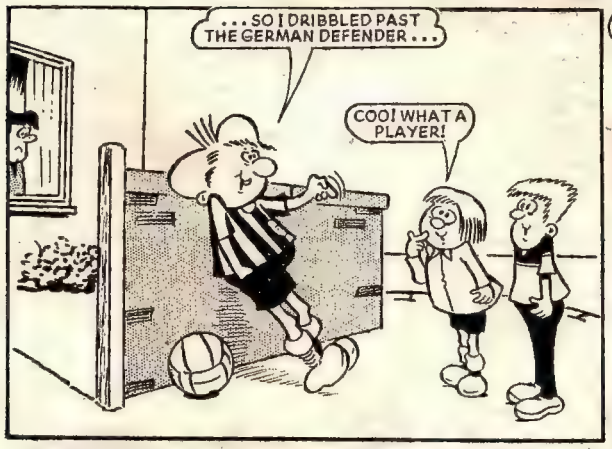

OOH! I HOPE THEY DON'T NEED ME TO WASH THE STRIPS AFTER-WARDS.

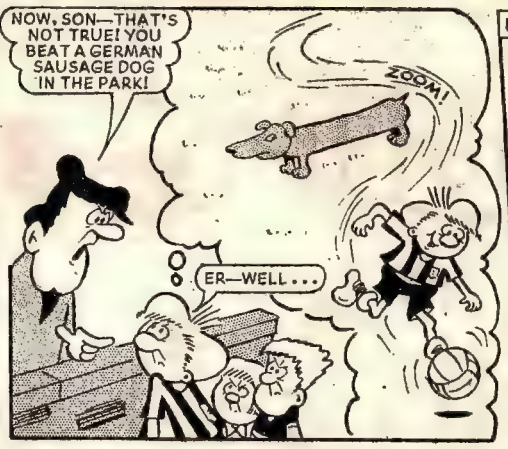

At the pitch—
AH, BALL BOY—HERE'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO...
YES?
BNO. 28.7.79

HUH! IT'S WORSE THAN I IMAGINED!


THUD!
BAH! ONE OF THE CORNER FLAGS GOT BROKEN—GUESS WHO'S THE REPLACEMENT!

# BALL BOY


...SO I DRIBBLED PAST THE GERMAN DEFENDER...
COO! WHAT A PLAYER!

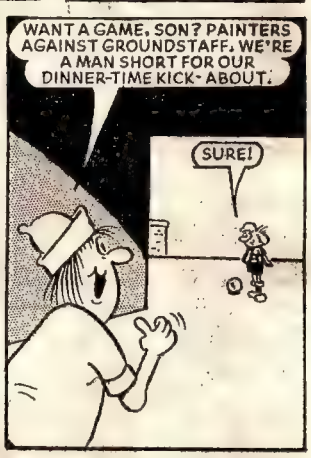

NOW, SON—THAT'S NOT TRUE! YOU BEAT A GERMAN SAUSAGE DOG IN THE PARK!
ZOOM!
ER—WELL...

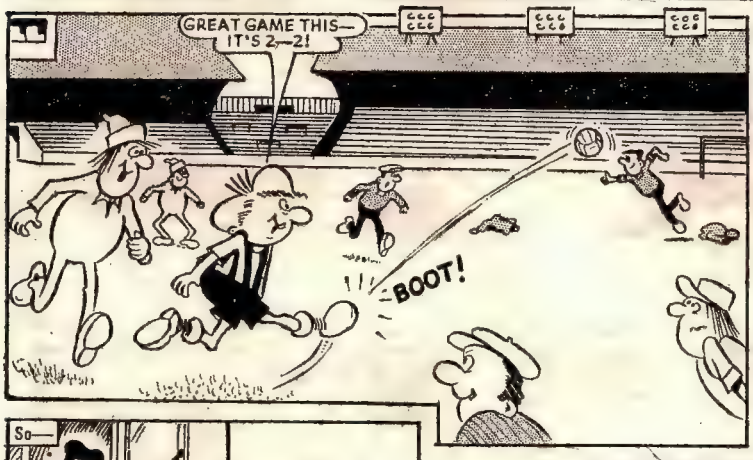
Later—
...AND BRIAN CLOUGH SAID TO ME...
GASP!

WAIT A MINUTE—THAT WAS A TV INTERVIEW! HE WAS TALKING TO MILLIONS OF FOLK!
ER—I SUPPOSE YOU COULD PUT IT THAT WAY!
HUH!

NO MORE TALL STORIES, OR I'LL CONFISCATE YOUR BALL!

MUDCHESTER UNITED
I DON'T MEAN TO TELL THOSE TALES—I JUST GET CARRIED AWAY!

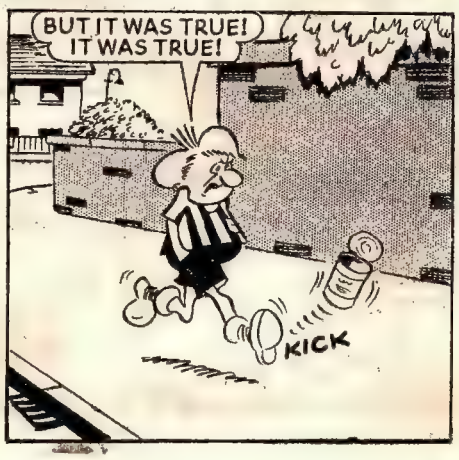

WANT A GAME, SON? PAINTERS AGAINST GROUNDSTAFF. WE'RE A MAN SHORT FOR OUR DINNER-TIME KICK-ABOUT.
SURE!


GREAT GAME THIS—IT'S 2—2!
BOOT!

BACK TO WORK, MEN—DINNER BREAK'S OVER!
GOAL! WE'VE WON!

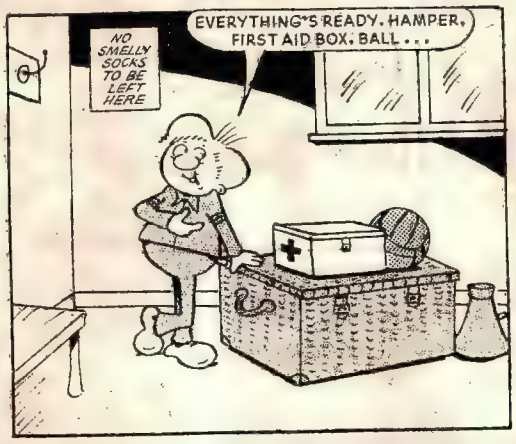
So—
...AND THAT'S HOW I SCORED THE WINNING GOAL AT THE BIG STADIUM TODAY...

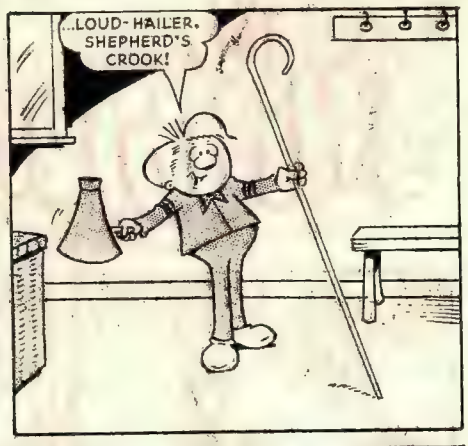
I WARNED YOU ABOUT THOSE STORIES—I'M CONFISCATING YOUR BALL FOR THE DAY—NO BUTS!
AW, DAD...
BNO. 4.8.79

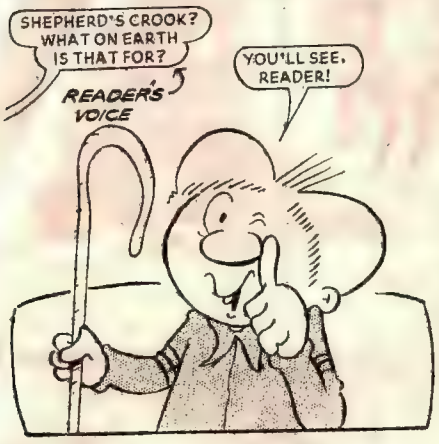

BUT IT WAS TRUE! IT WAS TRUE!
KICK

# BALL BOY

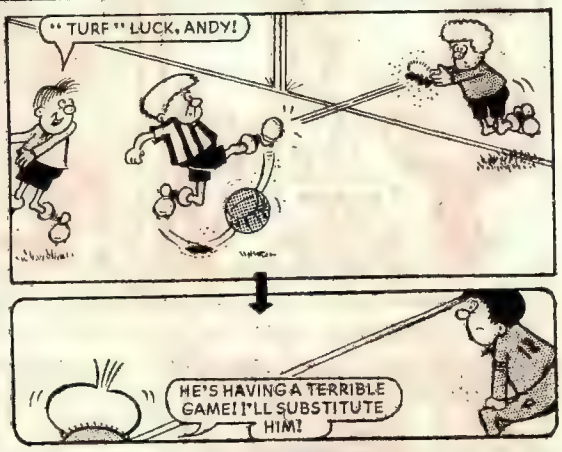
I'M NOT PLAYING TODAY. I'M THE TEAM MANAGER, READERS!

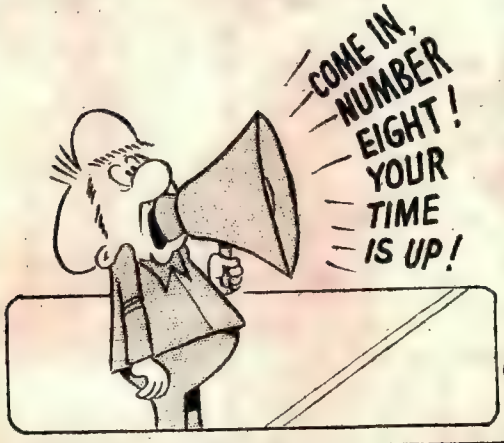

NO SMELLY SOCKS TO BE LEFT HERE
EVERYTHING'S READY. HAMPER, FIRST AID BOX, BALL . . .


..LOUD-HAILER, SHEPHERD'S CROOK!


SHEPHERD'S CROOK? WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT FOR?
READER'S VOICE
YOU'LL SEE, READER!

Later—
HMM! ANDY'S NOT HAVING A GOOD GAME!
MISSED


" TURF " LUCK, ANDY!
HE'S HAVING A TERRIBLE GAME! I'LL SUBSTITUTE HIM!

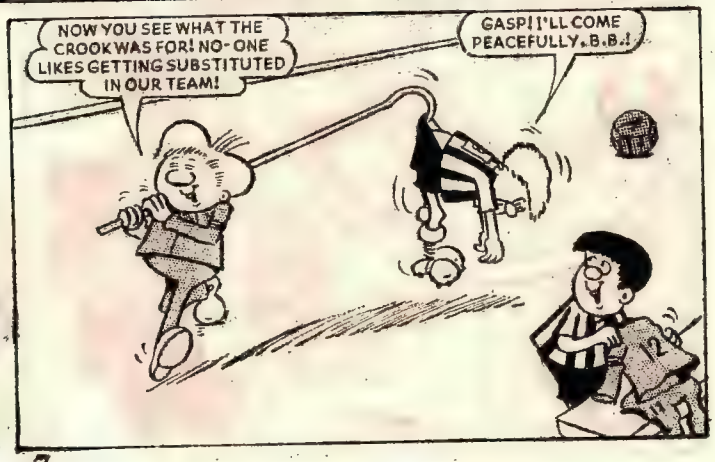

COME IN, NUMBER EIGHT! YOUR TIME IS UP!

SORRY, MANAGER! CAN'T HEAR YOU!
EAR PLUG

Soon—
OUR BALL!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS!

I'LL TAKE THE THROW-IN! AN ANDY SPECIAL!
BNO. 11.8.79

ERK!


NOW YOU SEE WHAT THE CROOK WAS FOR! NO-ONE LIKES GETTING SUBSTITUTED IN OUR TEAM!
GASP! I'LL COME PEACEFULLY, B.B.!

# BALL BOY

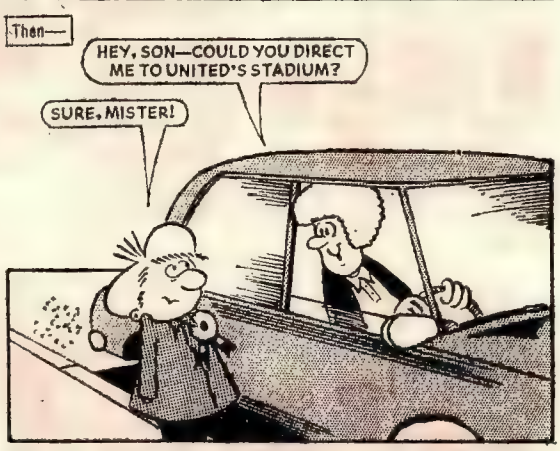
PENALTY, REF!
PEEP!

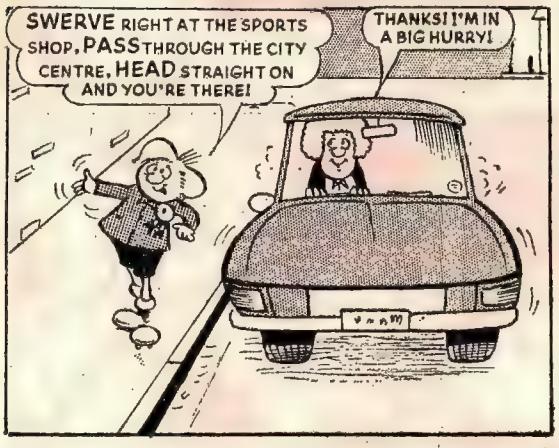
WATCH ME SENDING THE GOALIE THE WRONG WAY, READERS!

BAH! THOUGHT HE'D KICK IT THIS WAY!

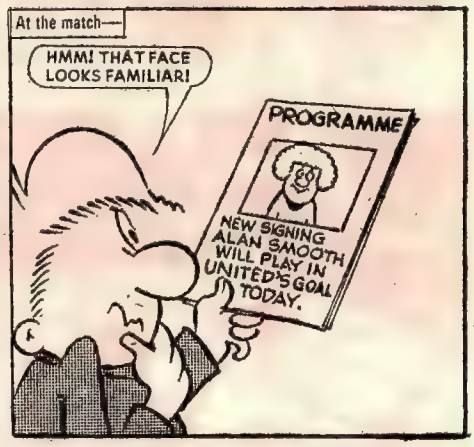
I'M GREAT AT SENDING KEEPERS THE WRONG WAY!

Later, B.B.'s off to watch Mudchester United's big game—


Then—
HEY, SON—COULD YOU DIRECT ME TO UNITED'S STADIUM?
SURE, MISTER!


SWERVE RIGHT AT THE SPORTS SHOP, PASS THROUGH THE CITY CENTRE, HEAD STRAIGHT ON AND YOU'RE THERE!
THANKS! I'M IN A BIG HURRY!

HEY! I MEANT LEFT AT THE SPORTS SHOP! OOPS! TOO LATE!

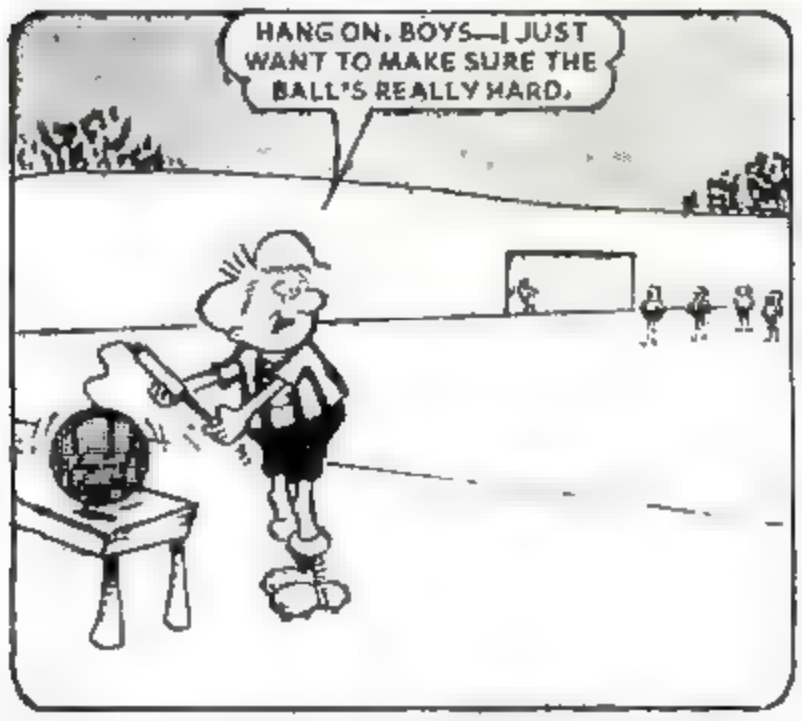

At the match—
HMM! THAT FACE LOOKS FAMILIAR!
PROGRAMME
NEW SIGNING ALAN SMOOTH WILL PLAY IN UNITED'S GOAL TODAY.

Miles away—
HUH! THIS ISN'T THE BIG STADIUM, ANYWAY!
BNO. 18.8.79

Meanwhile—
...ALAN SMOOTH HASN'T ARRIVED, SO A RESERVE WILL BE IN GOAL TODAY!
OH, NO...

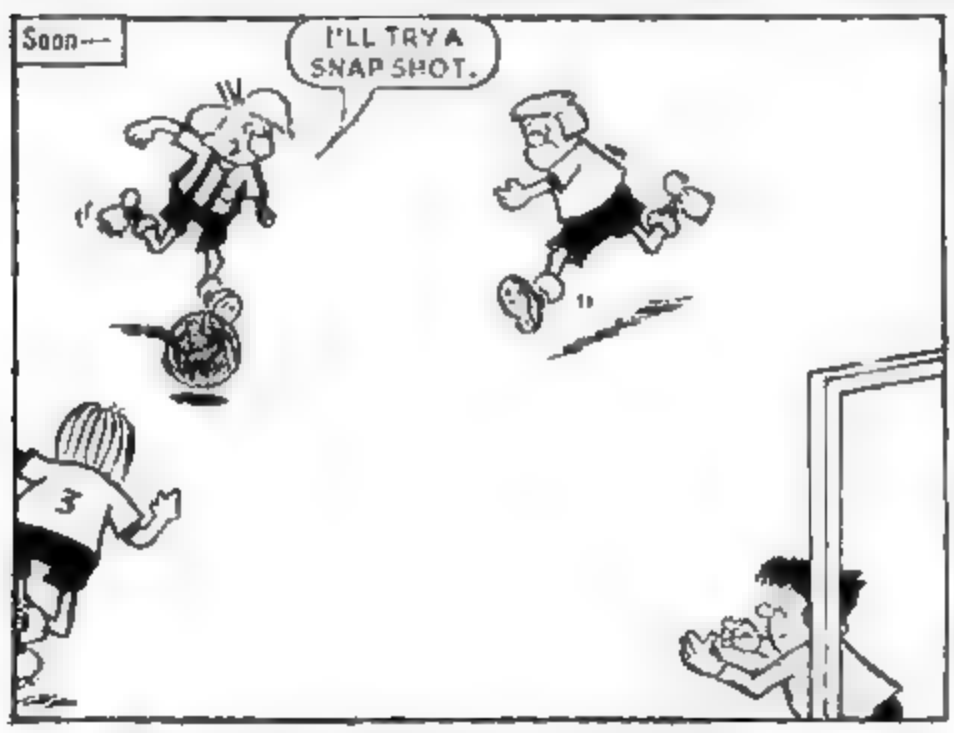
...MY FAULT! I'VE SENT A KEEPER THE WRONG WAY AGAIN!

# BALL BOY


HANG ON, BOYS—I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE THE BALL'S REALLY HARD.

YERK!
BANG!

IT'S JUST AS WELL WE BROUGHT A SPARE ONE WITH US.


Soon—
I'LL TRY A SNAP SHOT.

BAH! MY LACE IS BROKEN!

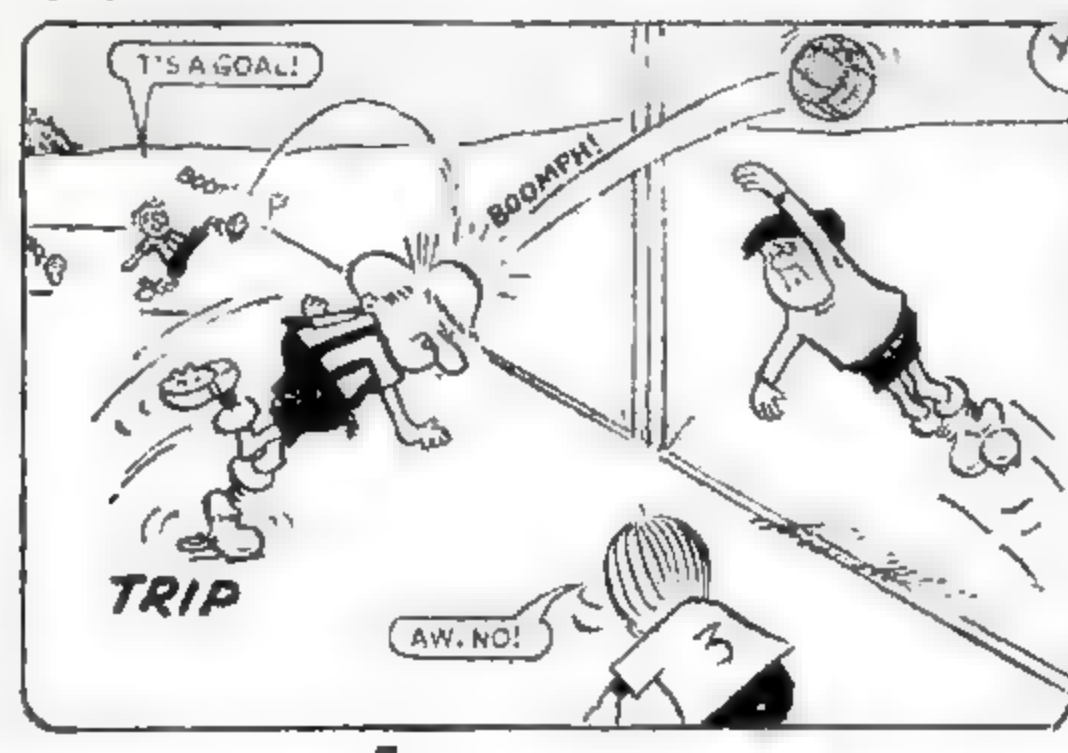
HUH! EVERYTHING'S GOING WRONG FOR ME TODAY!

Shortly—
NOTHING CAN STOP ME THIS TIME!

OOH! ERK! MY SHORTS ELASTIC HAS GONE!
GRAB
GRAB

MY LUCK'S REALLY OUT TODAY!

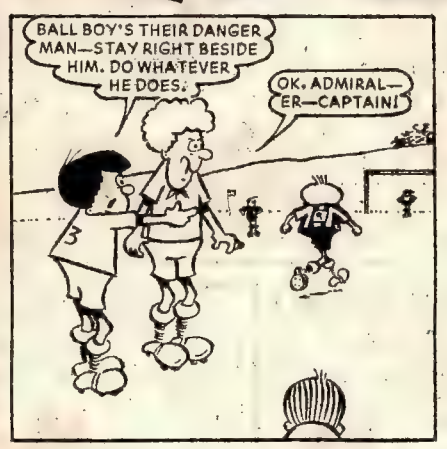
Later—
OH, NO! MY BOOT'S FALLING TO BITS!
FLAP!
FLAP!
HA! HA!
BNO 25 8 79

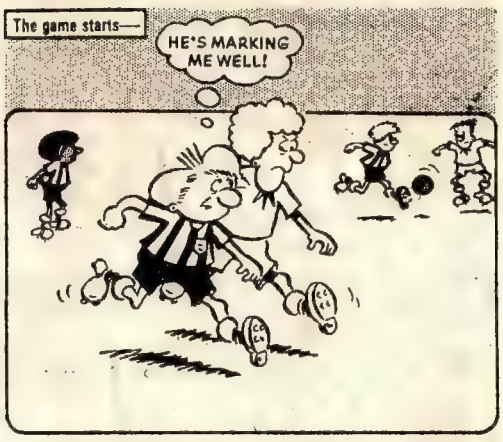

IT'S A GOAL!
BOOMPH!
TRIP
AW, NO!

YIPPEE! I'M REALLY LUCKY TO BE SO UNLUCKY!

# BALL BOY

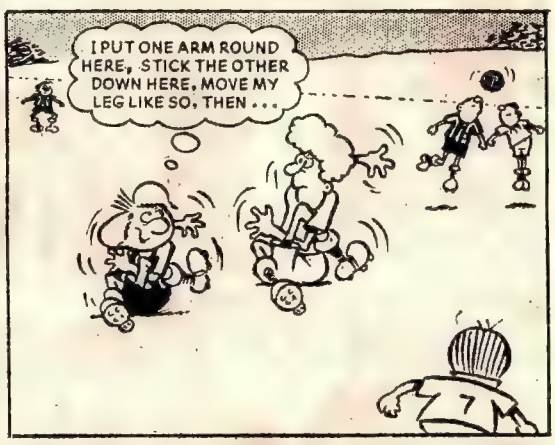
HMM! OUR OPPONENTS' NEW DEFENDER LOOKS A BIT DIM TO ME!

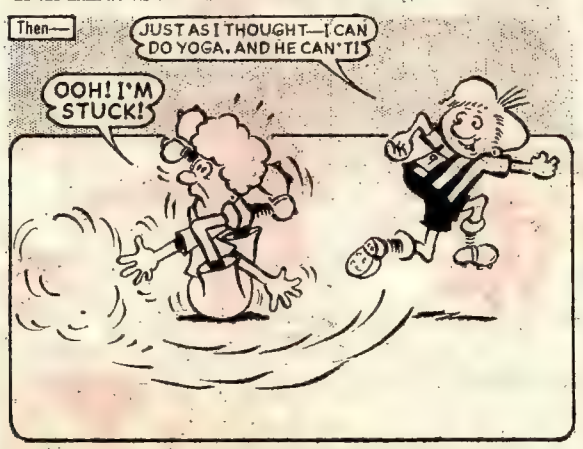

BALL BOY'S THEIR DANGER MAN—STAY RIGHT BESIDE HIM. DO WHATEVER HE DOES.
OK, ADMIRAL—ER—CAPTAIN!

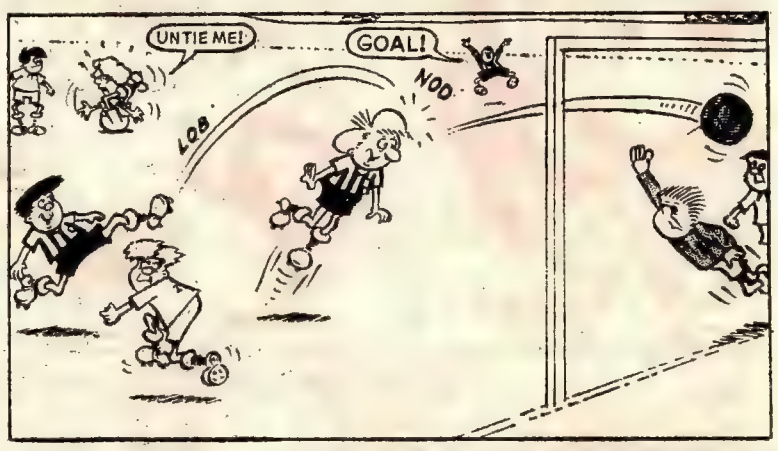

The game starts—
HE'S MARKING ME WELL!

IF I CAN'T SHAKE HIM OFF, I'LL NEVER GET INTO THIS GAME!

HMM! HE IS A BIT DAFT—THAT GIVES ME A PLAN!
HOP!
HOP!

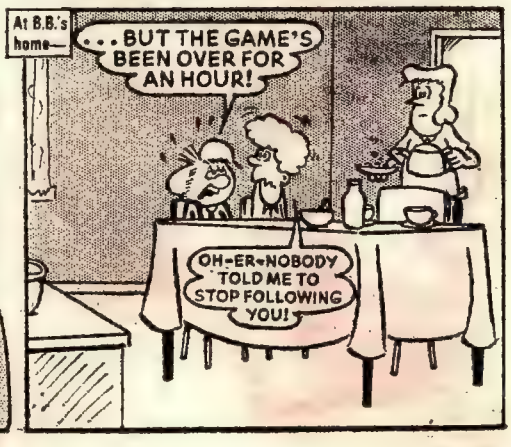

I PUT ONE ARM ROUND HERE, STICK THE OTHER DOWN HERE, MOVE MY LEG LIKE SO, THEN . . .


Then—
JUST AS I THOUGHT—I CAN DO YOGA, AND HE CAN'T!
OOH! I'M STUCK!


UNTIE ME!
GOAL!
NOD
LOB

SORRY ABOUT THAT, CAPTAIN—I WON'T LET HIM AWAY AGAIN!
BNO. 1.9.79

Later—
OK! I DON'T MIND A BIT OF CLOSE MARKING . . .

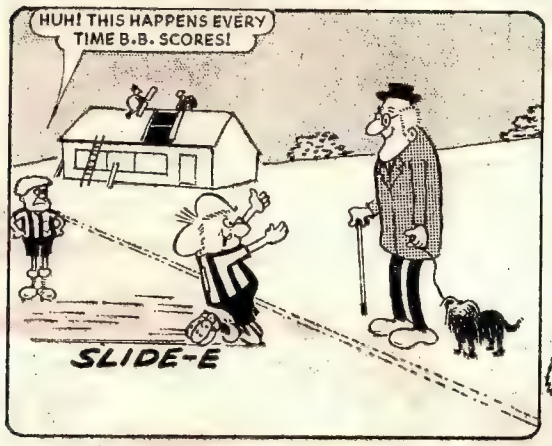

At B.B.'s home—
. . . BUT THE GAME'S BEEN OVER FOR AN HOUR!
OH-ER-NOBODY TOLD ME TO STOP FOLLOWING YOU!

# BALL BOY

HEY, SPIKE! AREN'T YOU GLAD YOUR TEAM SCORED?
READER'S VOICE
GOOD GOAL, BALL BOY!
MIXED FEELINGS!

I MEAN, JUST WATCH WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!

BAH! JUST LIKE A PESKY BALLET DANCER!
GOAL!

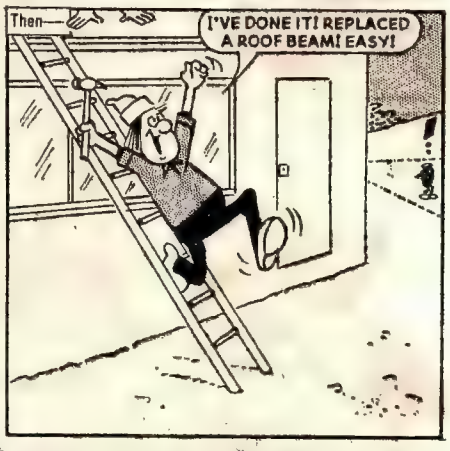

HUH! THIS HAPPENS EVERY TIME B.B. SCORES!
SLIDE-E

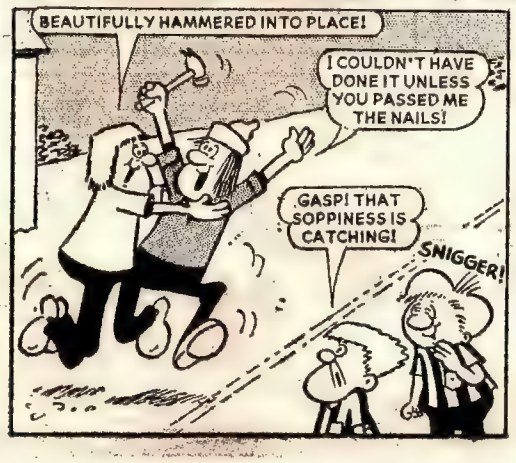
NOW THE WORST BIT OF ALL—THE HUGGING!

YUK! WHAT A BUNCH OF SOFTIES!

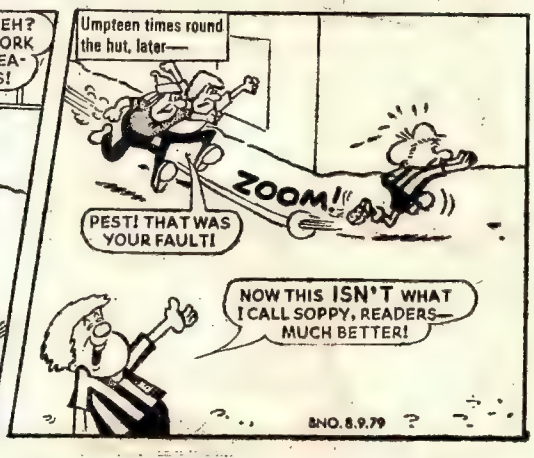
HUH! WHAT A CARRY-ON! YOU WOULDN'T SEE—ER—THOSE JOINERS CARRYING ON LIKE THAT!
CHANCE TO PLAY A JOKE ON SPIKE, HERE . . .

And so—
HEH! HEH! WE'LL DO THAT, B.B.—OUR FOREMAN'S NOT AROUND!


Then—
I'VE DONE IT! REPLACED A ROOF BEAM! EASY!


BEAUTIFULLY HAMMERED INTO PLACE!
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT UNLESS YOU PASSED ME THE NAILS!
GASP! THAT SOPPINESS IS CATCHING!
SNIGGER!

FOREMAN
FOOLING AROUND, EH? YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK THROUGH YOUR TEA-BREAK, FOR THIS!
ERK!


Umpteen times round the hut, later—
ZOOM!
PEST! THAT WAS YOUR FAULT!
NOW THIS ISN'T WHAT I CALL SOPPY, READERS—MUCH BETTER!
8NO. 8.9.79

# BALL BOY

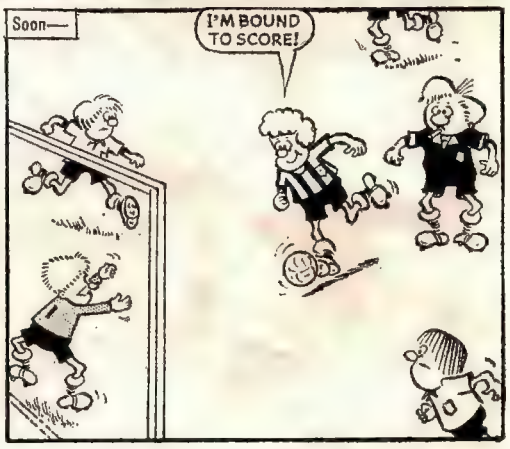
Half-time at a schools' football match—
SORRY, BOYS—THE HEADMASTER WANTS ME BACK AT SCHOOL URGENTLY. YOU'LL HAVE TO GET ANOTHER REFEREE.
SPORTS MASTER
SUCK
SUCK
SUCK
SUCK
WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH

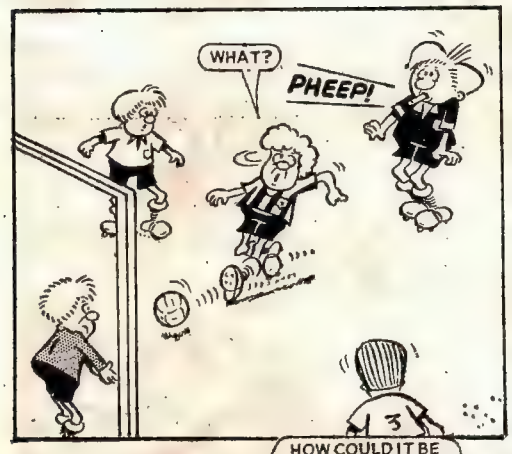
OH, WELL, I'VE SCORED ENOUGH GOALS FOR ONE DAY—I'LL BE THE REFEREE, SIR!

The second half begins—

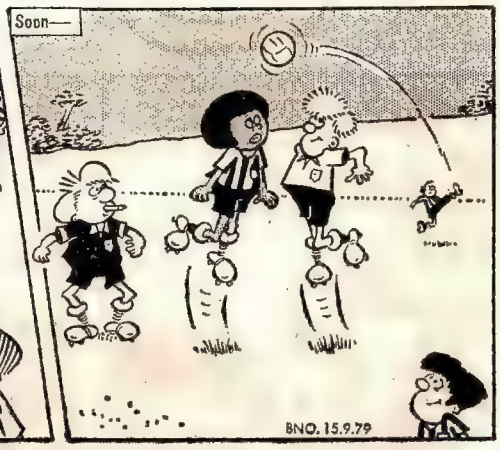
EH? WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
PHEEP!

I WASN'T BREAKING ANY FOOTBALL RULES!
ER—PLAY ON!

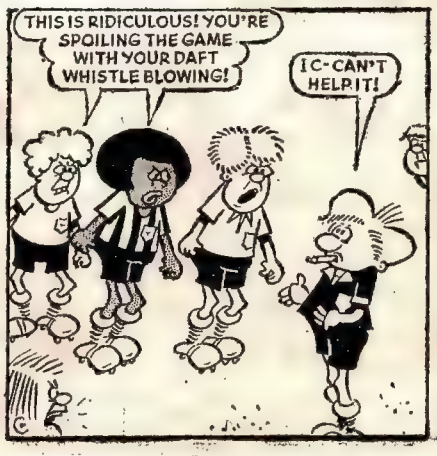

Soon—
I'M BOUND TO SCORE!

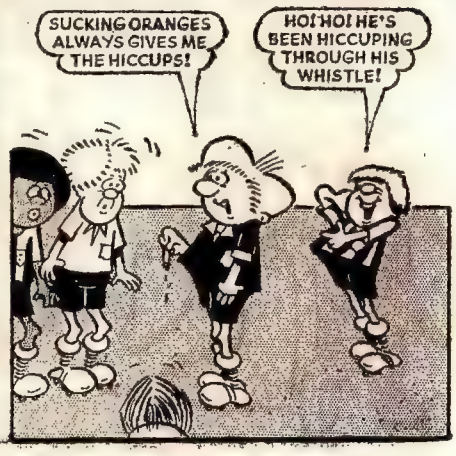

WHAT?
PHEEP!

I WASN'T OFFSIDE!
MUMBLE . . . ER—PLAY ON!


Soon—
BNO. 15.9.79

HOW COULD IT BE A FOUL? WE DIDN'T TOUCH EACH OTHER!
PHEEP!

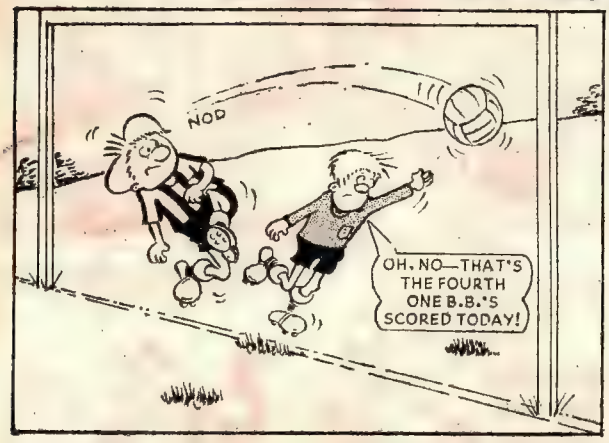

THIS IS RIDICULOUS! YOU'RE SPOILING THE GAME WITH YOUR DAFT WHISTLE BLOWING!
I C-CAN'T HELP IT!

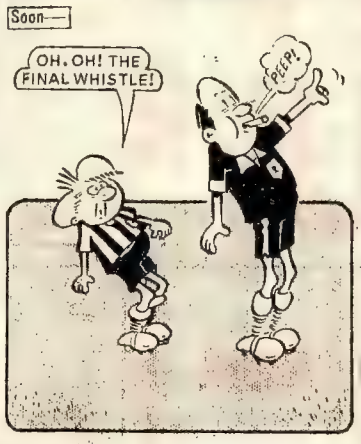

SUCKING ORANGES ALWAYS GIVES ME THE HICCUPS!
HO! HO! HE'S BEEN HICCUPING THROUGH HIS WHISTLE!

# BALL BOY

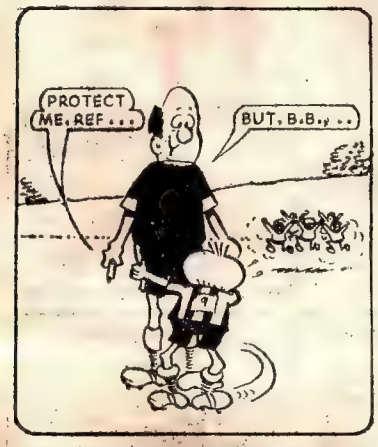
THIS NEW PLAYER WE HAVE IN OUR TEAM IS A BIT THICK, BUT HE OWNS FIVE FOOTBALLS SO HE'S WORTH KEEPING!
TRIP
I'M GIVING HIM SOME EXTRA COACHING—OW!
OOPS!
MISKICK
I'LL BE THE 'KEEPER, JIMMY—NOW REMEMBER, WHEN YOU'RE TRYING A SHOT TAKE PLENTY TIME.
But—
WOW!
EH?
SIGH! AND TAKE EVEN MORE TIME BEFORE YOU SHOOT TO MAKE SURE YOUR BOOTS ARE TIED PROPERLY!
Next—
WHEN SHOOTING, ALWAYS AIM AS FAR AWAY FROM THE GOALIE AS POSSIBLE.
OK!
THERE'S THE BEST PLACE—THEY CALL IT THE "POSTAGE STAMP" CORNER.
WHUMP!
WE'D BETTER GET READY FOR THE GAME. NOW REMEMBER WHAT I SAID—IMAGINE THAT THE GOAL IS AN ENVELOPE AND AIM FOR THE STAMP.
Soon—
GIVE ME THE BALL—GIVE ME THE BALL—I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO!
LOOKS LIKE MY EXTRA COACHING HAS WORKED!
HERE I GO!
But—
WIGGLEY'S CHEWING GUM
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
NEVER BE WITHOUT A "Beano"
POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS
THUD!
DONE IT! JUST LIKE B.B. SAID!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"
BNO. 22.9.79

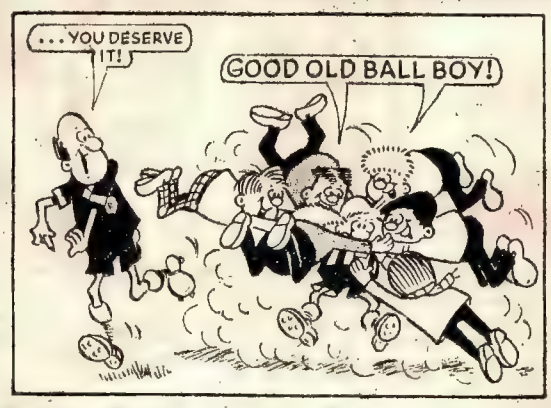
# BALL BOY


NOD
OH, NO—THAT'S THE FOURTH ONE B.B.'S SCORED TODAY!

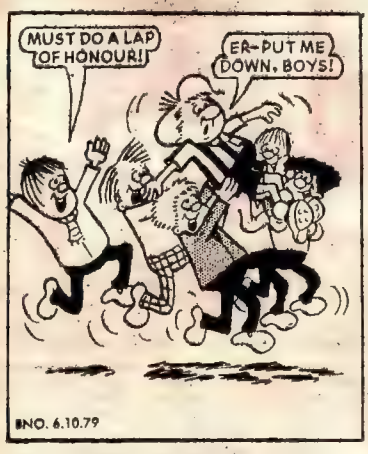

Soon—
OH, OH! THE FINAL WHISTLE!
PEEP!

ERK! HERE COME THE HAPPY SUPPORTERS!

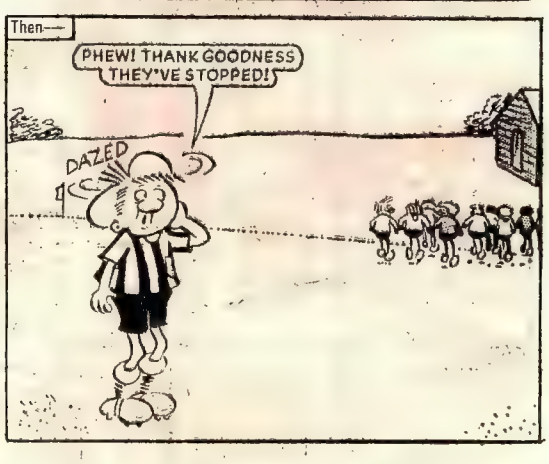

PROTECT ME, REF...
BUT, B.B., ..


...YOU DESERVE IT!
GOOD OLD BALL BOY!

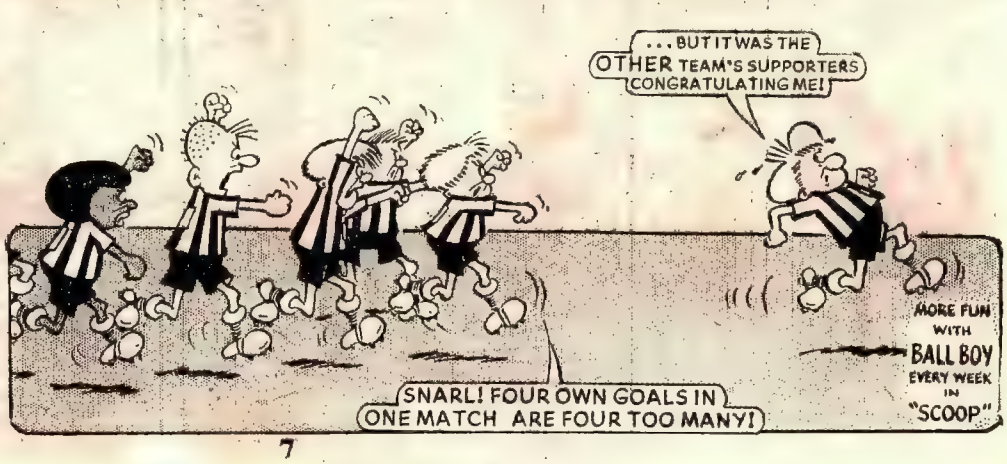
OUR HERO!


MUST DO A LAP OF HONOUR!
ER—PUT ME DOWN, BOYS!
BNO. 6.10.79

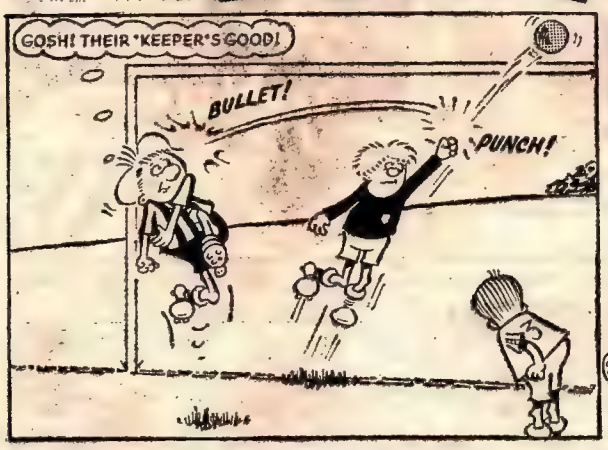
OOH! STOP IT!
BALL BOY'S THE GREATEST!
HURL!

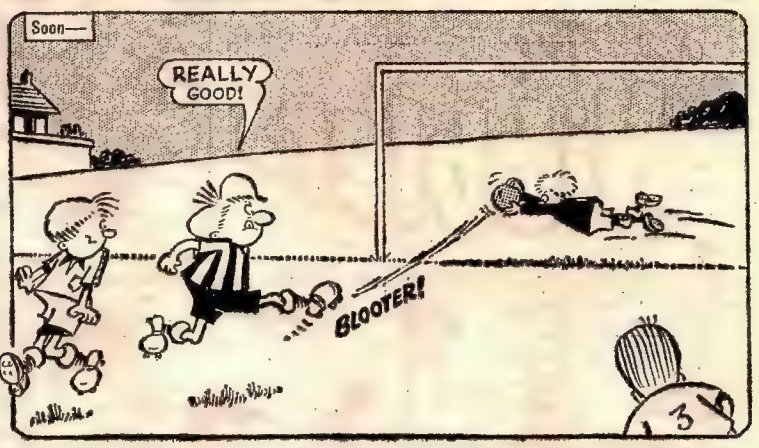

Then—
PHEW! THANK GOODNESS THEY'VE STOPPED!
DAZED

I WOULDN'T REALLY HAVE MINDED...

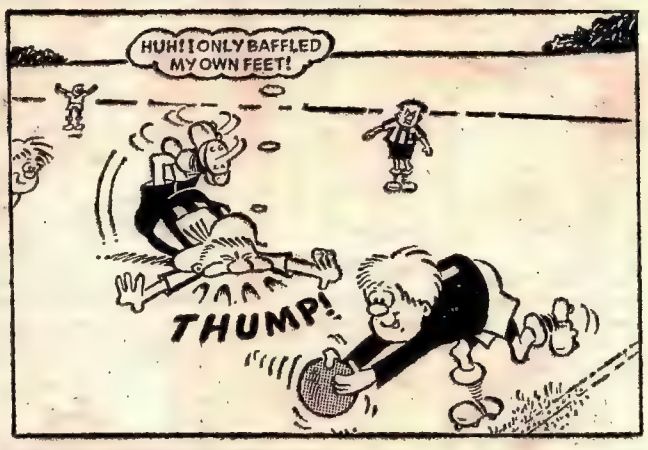

...BUT IT WAS THE OTHER TEAM'S SUPPORTERS CONGRATULATING ME!
SNARL! FOUR OWN GOALS IN ONE MATCH ARE FOUR TOO MANY!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"

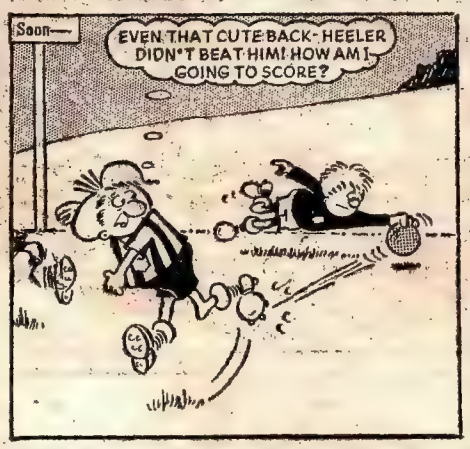
# BALL BOY


GOSH! THEIR 'KEEPER'S GOOD!
BULLET!
PUNCH!


Soon—
REALLY GOOD!
BLOOTER!

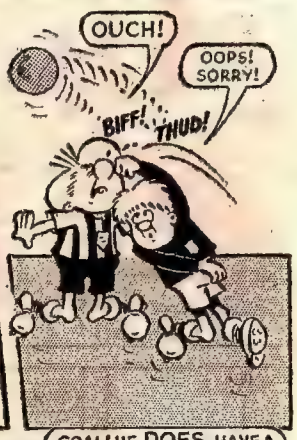
Later—
LET'S SEE IF I CAN BAFFLE HIM HERE!


HUH! I ONLY BAFFLED MY OWN FEET!
THUMP!


Soon—
EVEN THAT CUTE BACK-HEELER DIDN'T BEAT HIM! HOW AM I GOING TO SCORE?

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE A SINGLE WEAKNESS!

I'VE GOT TO KEEP ON TRYING, THOUGH!


OUCH!
OOPS! SORRY!
BIFF!
THUD!

THAT BANG ON THE NOSE HAS MADE ME WANT TO SNEEZE!
BNO. 27.10.79

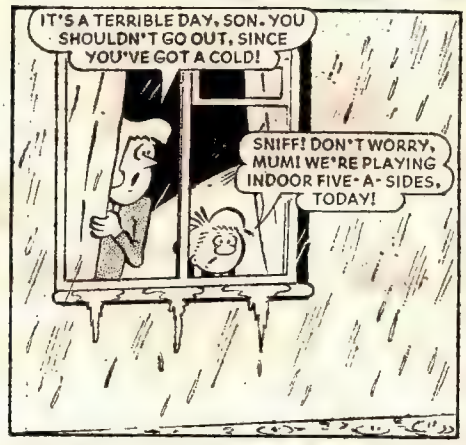
AAATCHOO!

STAY AWAY! KEEP YOUR GERMS TO YOURSELF!
GOAL! HE DOES HAVE A WEAKNESS! HE'S ALL WORRIED ABOUT HIS HEALTH!

# BALL BOY

IT'S NOT GOING TO BE AN ENERGETIC GAME FOR ME TODAY! I'M JUST THE REFEREE!
Soon—
A GOOD TACKLE!
BUMP!
OOOF!
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT! HOW CAN I REFEREE WITHOUT A WHISTLE?
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WHISTLE WITH YOUR FINGERS!
HMM! DON'T KNOW IF I CAN WHISTLE THAT WAY!
And—
FORGET IT—YOU'RE ONLY CAUSING A DRAUGHT!
Then—
WHAT WAS THAT?
PHEEP!
HERE, B.B.—YOU CAN MAKE A WHISTLING NOISE WITH A BALLOON!
GREAT! THAT'S THE ANSWER!
PHEEP!
I'LL BLOW IT RIGHT UP FIRST!
But—
BAH! TOO MUCH!
BANG!
WE WANT TO GET ON WITH THE GAME!
BUT WHAT AM I GOING TO BLOW?
PERHAPS I CAN HELP, LADDIE!
PHEEP! PHOOP! WHEEZE!
A HIGH NOTE'S A FOUL. A LOW NOTE'S A GOAL!
AND I'LL BE IN THE GOALMOUTH BEFORE YOU!
GASP! NOT A VERY ENERGETIC GAME? BAH!
BNO. 3.11.79

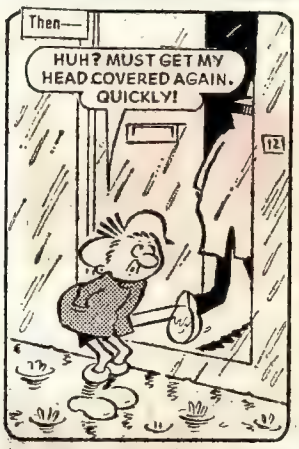
# BALL BOY


IT'S A TERRIBLE DAY, SON. YOU SHOULDN'T GO OUT, SINCE YOU'VE GOT A COLD!
SNIFF! DON'T WORRY, MUM! WE'RE PLAYING INDOOR FIVE-A-SIDES, TODAY!

WELL, JUST MAKE SURE - YOU KEEP DRY!
DON'T WORRY, MUM, I WILL!

But—
GUST
HOW WILL I KEEP DRY NOW?

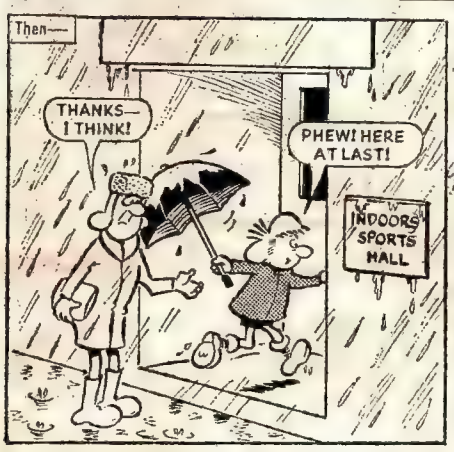
HEH! LOOK—JUST LIKE A PANTOMIME HORSE!

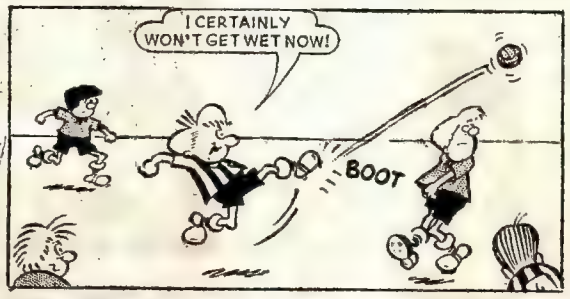

Then—
HUH? MUST GET MY HEAD COVERED AGAIN, QUICKLY!

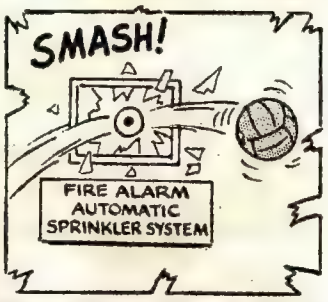
NICE OF YOU TO HELP ME, B.B.!
I'VE GOT MY REASONS!

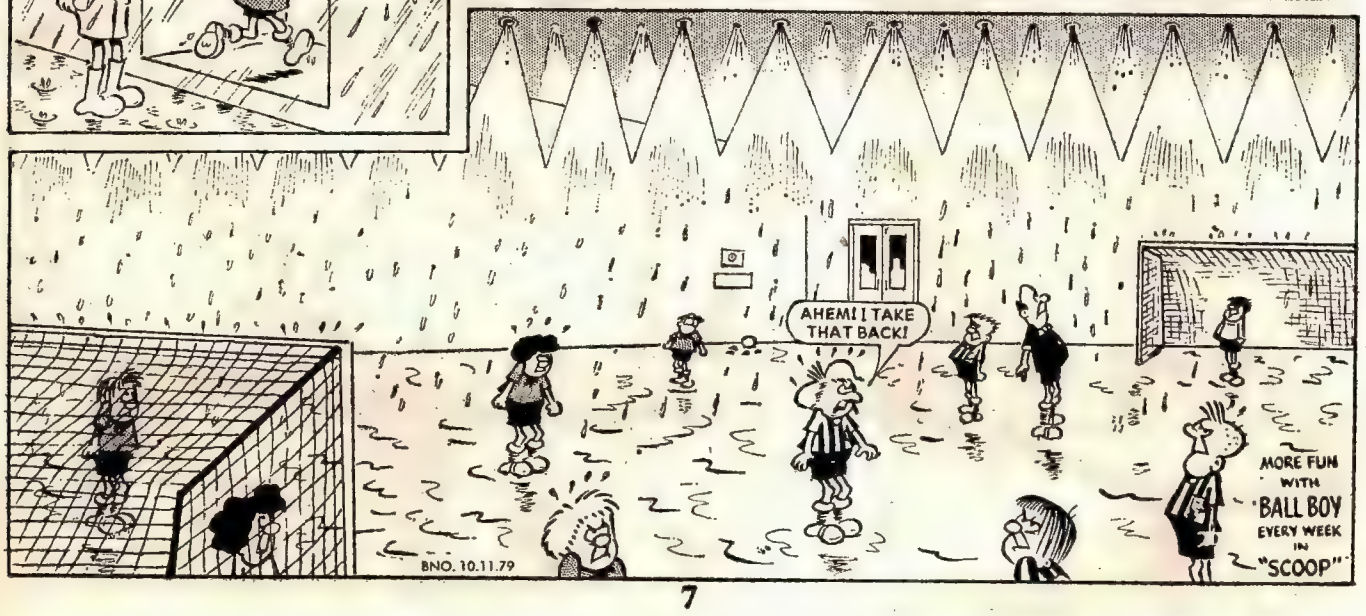
OK! THIS IS AS FAR AS I GO!
PITY!

So—
I KNOW IT'S POLITE OF YOU TO CARRY MY UMBRELLA, BUT IT'S NOT DOING ME MUCH GOOD!

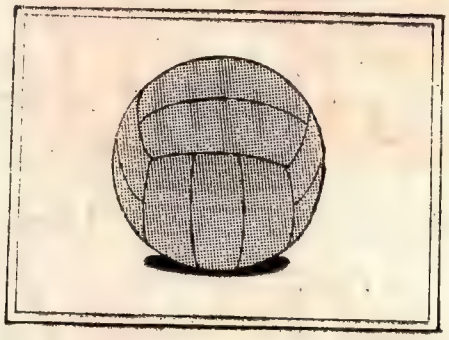

Then—
THANKS— I THINK!
PHEW! HERE AT LAST!
INDOORS SPORTS HALL


I CERTAINLY WON'T GET WET NOW!
BOOT

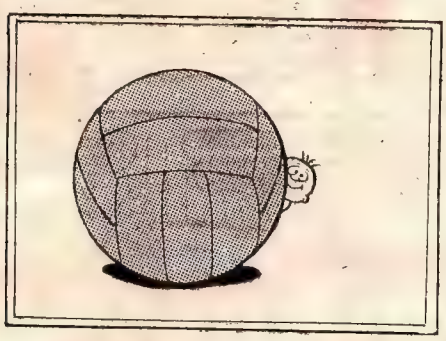

SMASH!
FIRE ALARM AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM

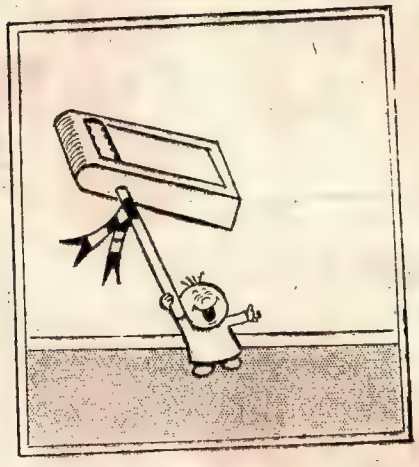

AHEM! I TAKE THAT BACK!
BNO. 10.11.79
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"

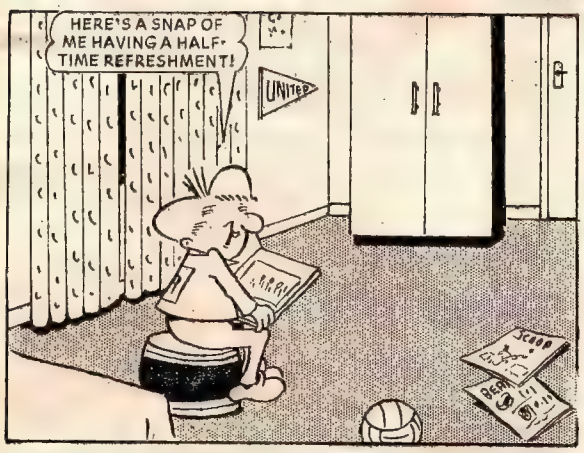
# BALL BOY

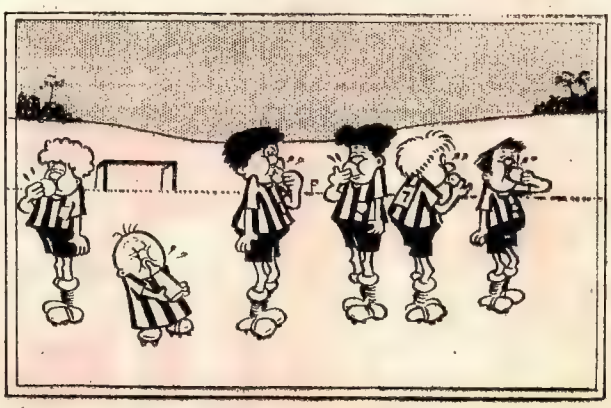



Next picture—





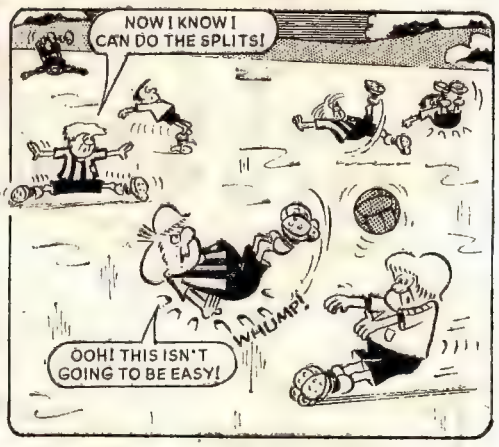


# BALL BOY

GOSH! IT'S COLD TODAY— OUR PITCH WILL BE ALL ICED UP.

At kick off—
WELL, HERE GOES!


NOW I KNOW I CAN DO THE SPLITS!
WHUMP!
OOH! THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY!

Then—
BAH! I'VE GOT LEG SPIN!
SKID SKID
SKID SKID

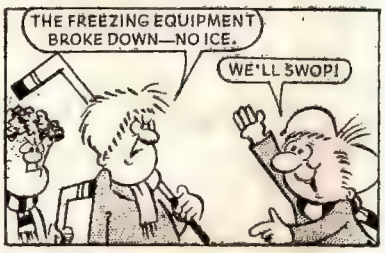
And—
CERTAINLY NOT A DAY FOR SLIDING TACKLES!
CRUNK!

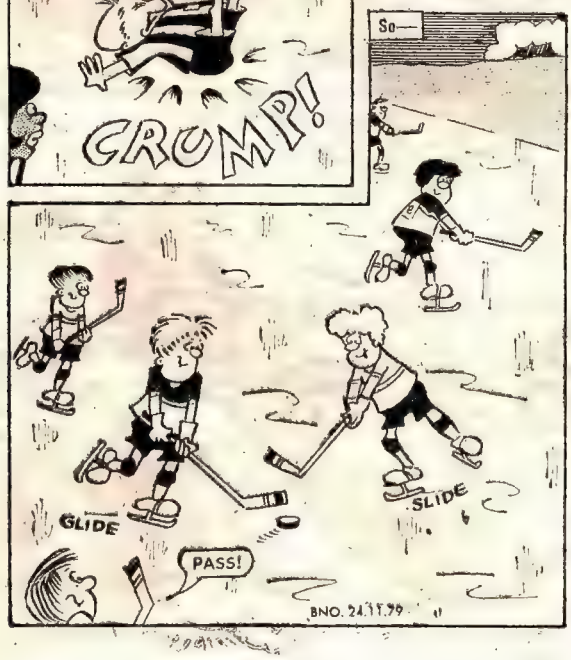
NO USE, LADS— WE'LL HAVE TO . . .

SLIP-P

. . . OOOF—ABANDON THE GAME!
CRUMP!

GRUMBLE! WE DID WANT TO PLAY!
HELLO! WHAT'S UP?
MUTTER! MUMBLE!
ICE RINK


THE FREEZING EQUIPMENT BROKE DOWN—NO ICE.
WE'LL SWOP!

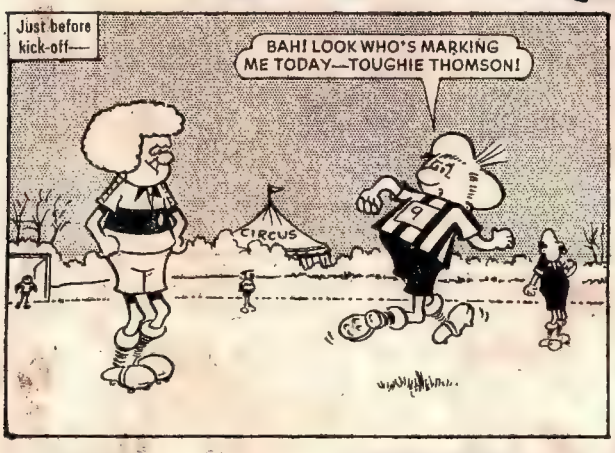

So—
GLIDE
SLIDE
PASS!
BNO. 24.11.79

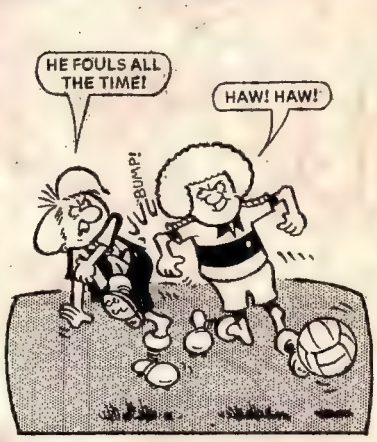
And—
ICE RINK
SMART THINKING, EH?
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!

# BALL BOY

I HOPE I HAVE A GOOD GAME TODAY!
BOOT!
HEY!
I LIKE WHEN OTHER PLAYERS MOB ME!
BUMP!
BUMP!
OOOF!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
LIKE THIS!
Soon—
ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS SCORE GOALS!
OOO! CLOSE!
WHUMP!
MAYBE THIS TIME!
WHOOPS! I WON'T GET MOBBED, PLAYING LIKE THIS!
THIRD TIME LUCKY!
WHAT A SLICE! THEY WON'T MOB ME FOR A SHOT LIKE THAT EITHER!
WHOOPS! OH, YES, THEY WILL...
THUNDER!
PEST!
...I KNOCKED OVER THE HALF-TIME ORANGE JUICE!
BNO. 1.12.79

# BALL BOY

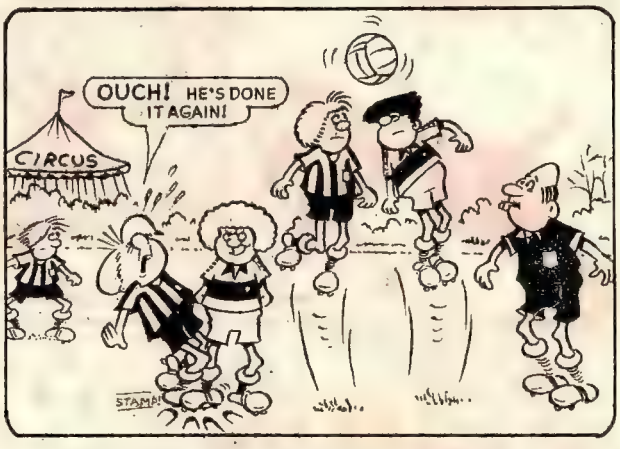

Just before kick-off—
BAH! LOOK WHO'S MARKING ME TODAY—TOUGHIE THOMSON!
CIRCUS

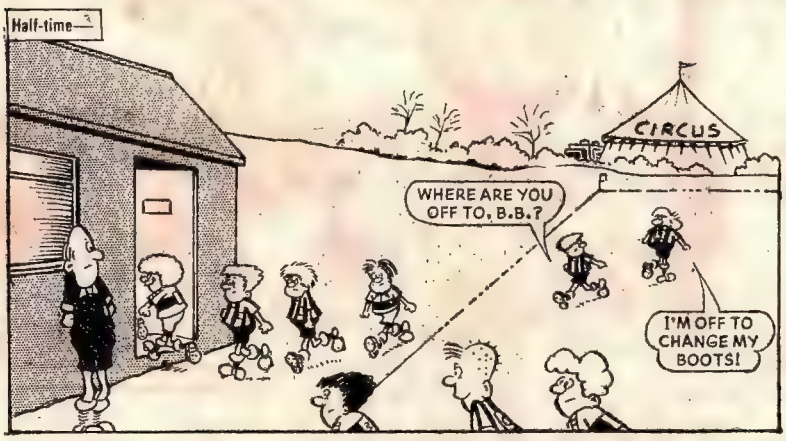

HE FOULS ALL THE TIME!
HAW! HAW!
BUMP!

HE KNOWS ALL THE TRICKS, AND HIS FAVOURITE ONE IS . . .

LET'S SEE YOU JUMP FOR THE BALL NOW!
. . . THIS! AARGH!
STAMP!

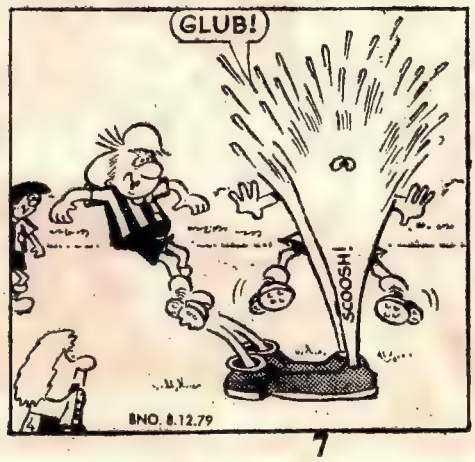
OOH! THE REF NEVER SEEMS TO CATCH HIM AT IT!
HOP

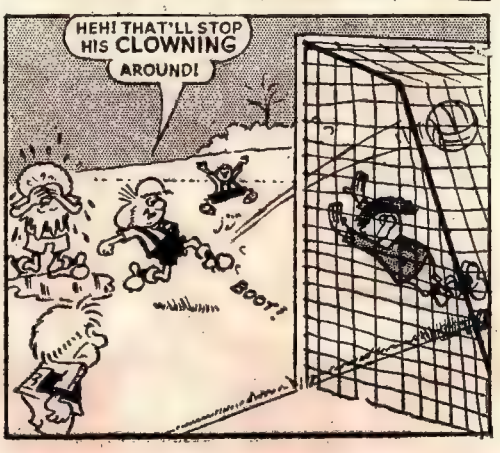

OUCH! HE'S DONE IT AGAIN!
CIRCUS
STAMP!


Half-time—
CIRCUS
WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO, B.B.?
I'M OFF TO CHANGE MY BOOTS!

Before the second half—
HO! HO! THEY'LL BE EVEN EASIER TO STAND ON!

The game restarts—
JUST LIKE THIS!


GLUB!
SCOOSH!
BNO. 8.12.79


HEH! THAT'LL STOP HIS CLOWNING AROUND!
BOOT!

# BALL BOY

After a schools match—
GOSH! YOU'RE A GREAT PLAYER, BALL BOY! CAN I TAKE YOUR PICTURE?
SURE!

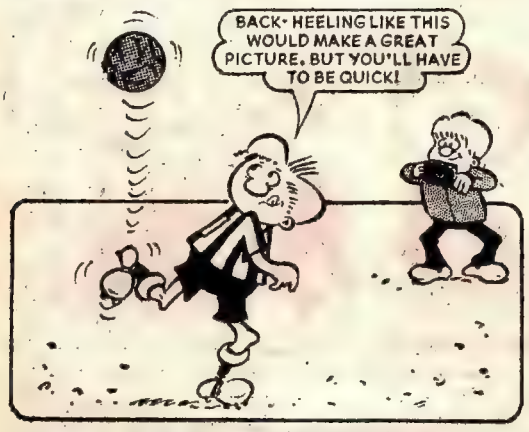
THERE—TAKE A SNAP OF ME DOING TRICKS WITH THE BALL!
HANG ON! I'M NOT READY YET!
TAP! TAP!

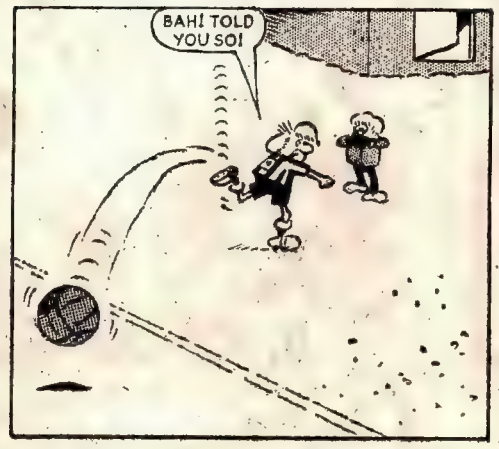
WHOOPS! NEITHER AM I! YOU TOOK TOO LONG!
MISSED

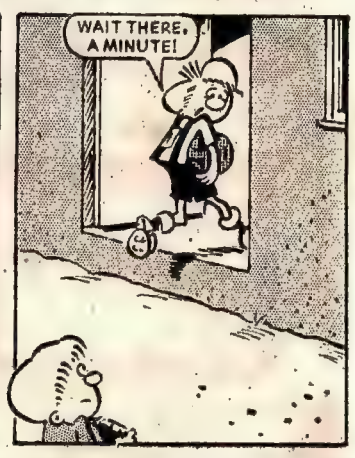
TRY AGAIN! I'LL BOUNCE IT ON MY KNEE THIS TIME!

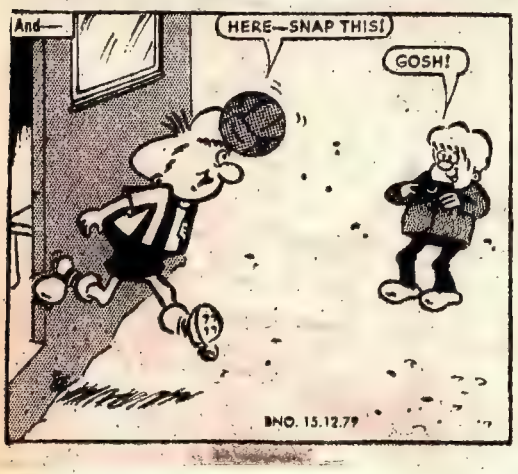
KEEP DOING IT! I CAN'T GET YOU ALL IN YET!

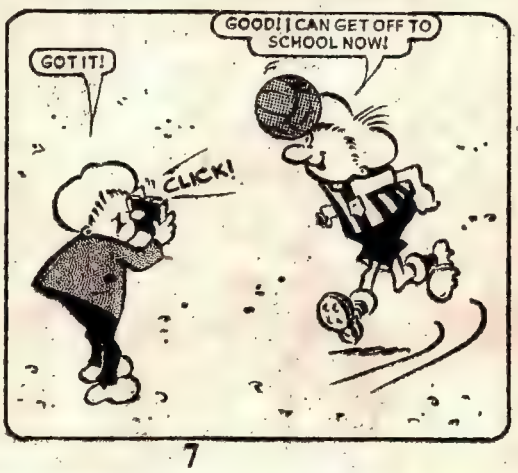
HUH! TOO LATE AGAIN!
MISSED


BACK-HEELING LIKE THIS WOULD MAKE A GREAT PICTURE. BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO BE QUICK!


BAH! TOLD YOU SO!

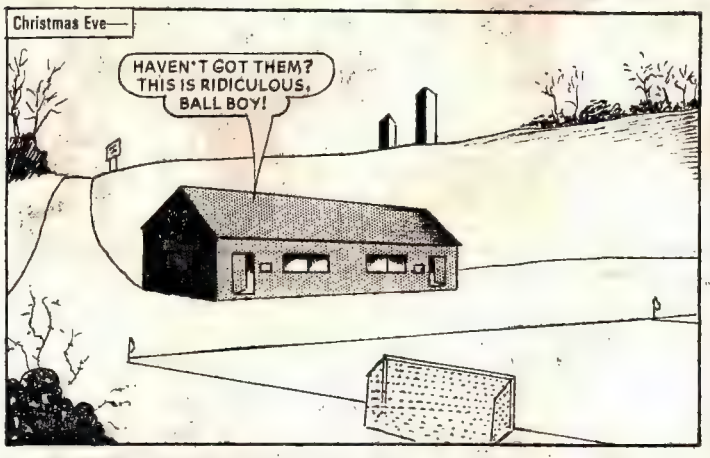

WAIT THERE, A MINUTE!


And—
HERE—SNAP THIS!
GOSH!
BNO. 15.12.79


GOT IT!
GOOD! I CAN GET OFF TO SCHOOL NOW!
CLICK!

WELL, IT WAS THIS GLUE, SIR— IT WAS A LOT STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT, AND . . .

# BALL BOY

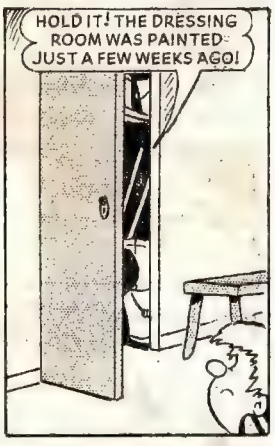

Christmas Eve—
HAVEN'T GOT THEM? THIS IS RIDICULOUS, BALL BOY!

AW, COME ON—DON'T BE A SOFTY!
NO! I'M NOT GOING OUT WITHOUT THEM!
NEITHER AM I!
NOR ME!

WELL, I'LL NEVER GET REPLACEMENTS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, BOYS!
GRUMBLE!

I'VE AN IDEA—ANYONE GOT KNITTING NEEDLES IN THEIR SPORTS BAGS?
SNAP!

SNARL! THIS ISN'T A GIRLS' TEAM—WE'RE TOUGH!


HOLD IT! THE DRESSING ROOM WAS PAINTED JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO!

KNEW THERE WAS SOME LEFT!
BLACK
WHITE

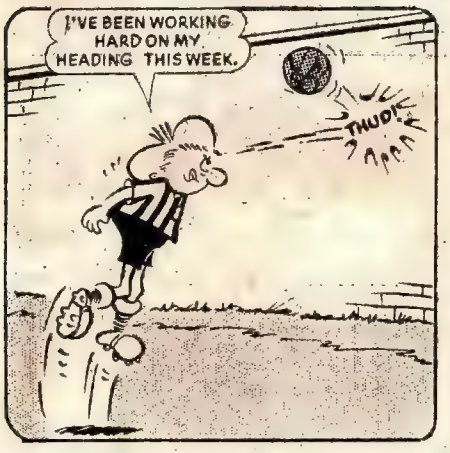
Soon—
THERE! TIME TO TAKE THE FIELD!
HOPE IT WASHES OFF!

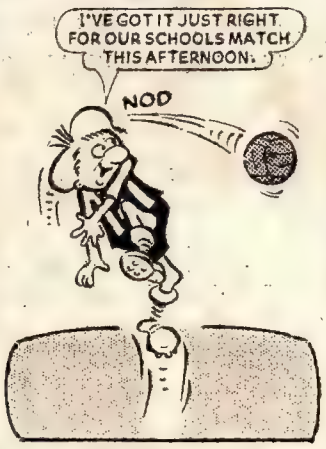
I'D RATHER HAVE HAD A GLOSS FINISH, MYSELF!
WET PAINT

PAINTED SOCKS? WHAT'S THE IDEA, B.B.?
READER'S VOICE
WELL, I'M HOPING FOR A LOT OF PRESENTS TOMORROW...
BNO. 22.12.79

...AND OUR TEAM'S SOCKS SHOULD HOLD EVERYTHING!
MERRY CHRISTMAS, FANS!
SNORE!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"

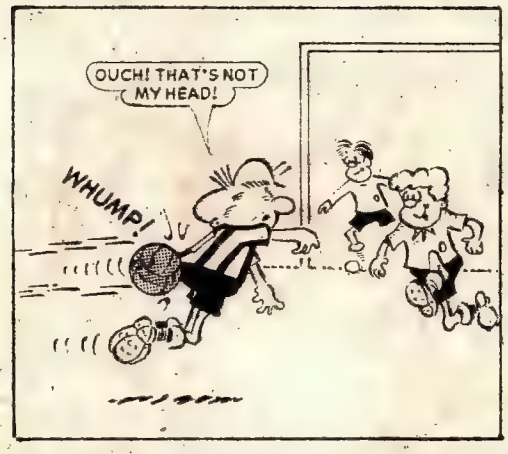
# BALL BOY


I'VE BEEN WORKING HARD ON MY HEADING THIS WEEK.
THUD!

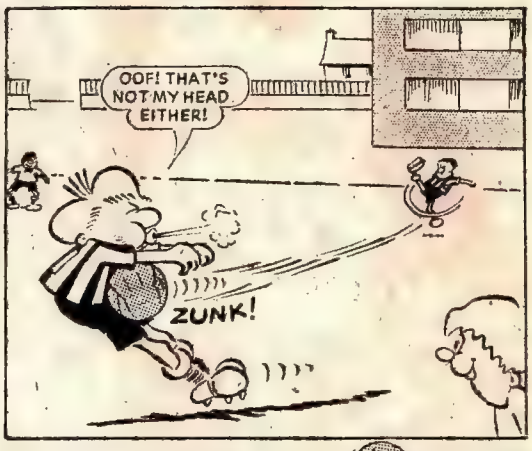

I'VE GOT IT JUST RIGHT FOR OUR SCHOOLS MATCH THIS AFTERNOON.
NOD

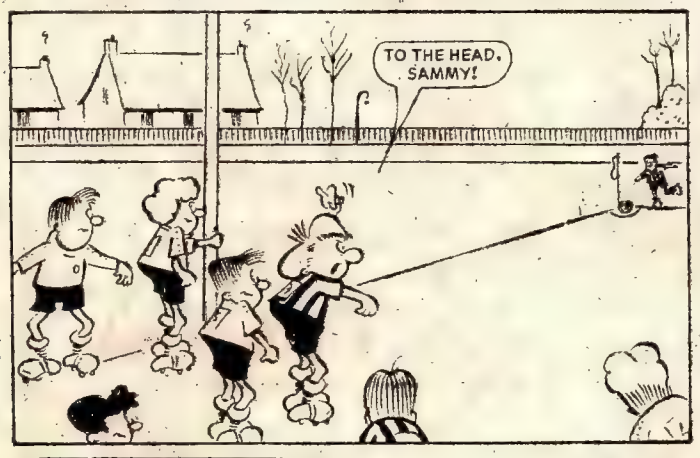
Later—
REMEMBER, LADS—ANY CHANCE YOU GET, PLAY THE BALL TO MY HEAD.
SCHOOL

Soon—
TO THE HEAD!


OUCH! THAT'S NOT MY HEAD!
WHUMP!

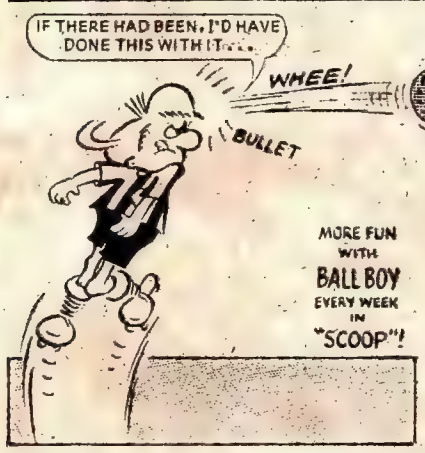
TO THE HEAD!

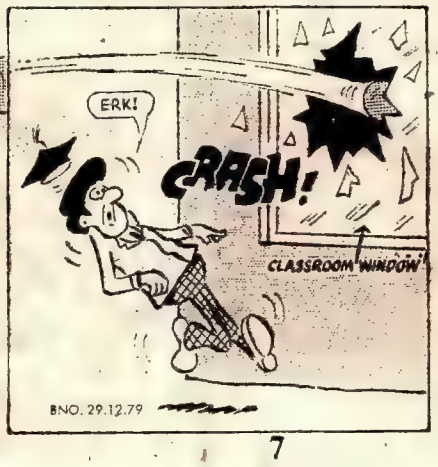

OOF! THAT'S NOT MY HEAD EITHER!
ZUNK!

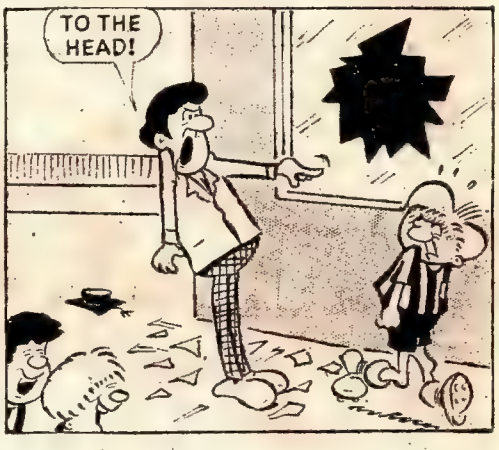

TO THE HEAD, SAMMY!

HOW BIG DO YOU THINK MY HEAD IS?
NO COMMENT!

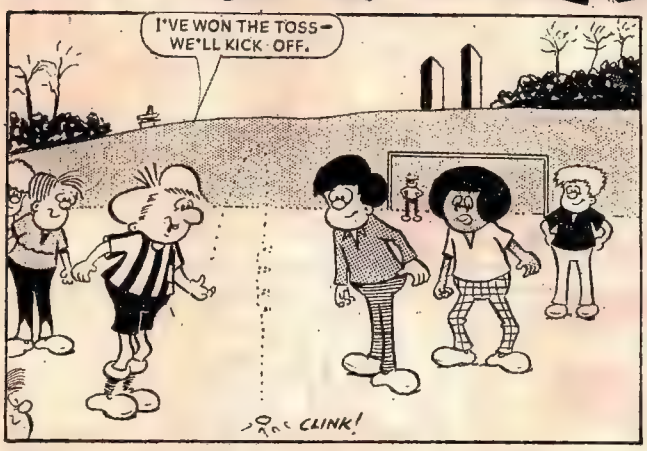
After the game—
HUH! NOT ONE GOOD BALL TO THE HEAD ALL THROUGH THE MATCH!

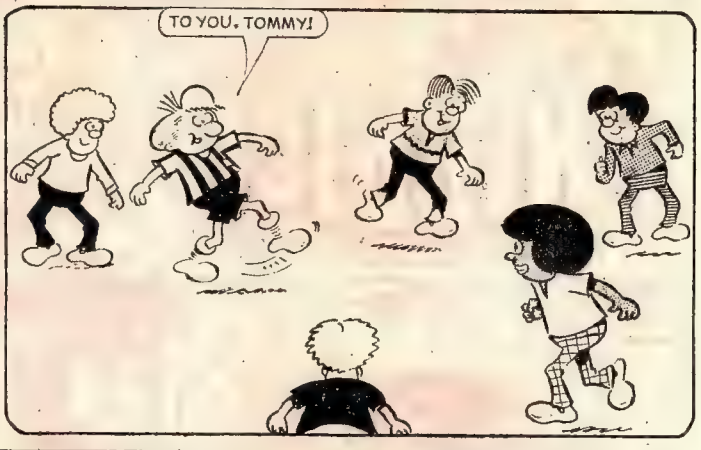

IF THERE HAD BEEN, I'D HAVE DONE THIS WITH IT....
WHEE!
BULLET
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!


ERK!
CRASH!
CLASSROOM WINDOW
BNO. 29.12.79


TO THE HEAD!

# BALL BOY


I'VE WON THE TOSS— WE'LL KICK OFF.
CLINK!


TO YOU, TOMMY!

OH, GOOD PASS TO THE WING!

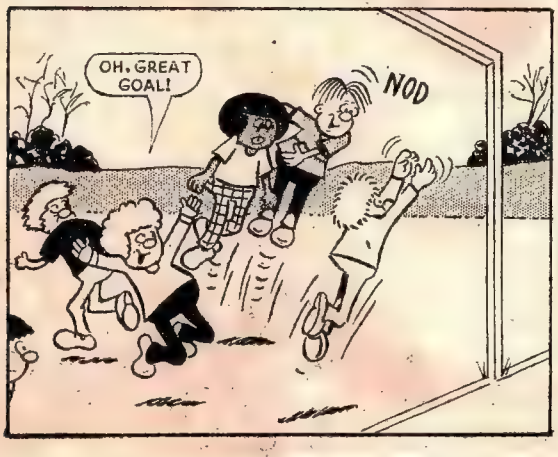
OUT! OUR THROW-IN!

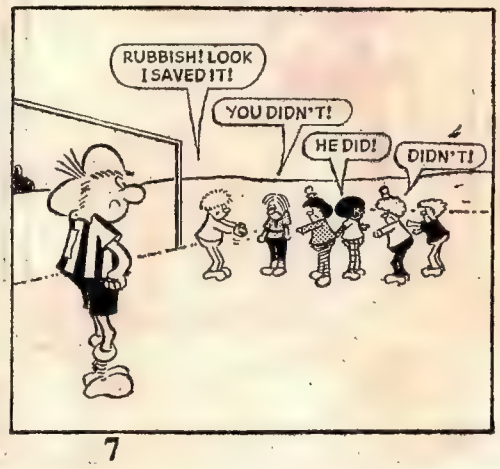
YOURS, BILL!

THAT'S IT—BACK TO ME!

FOUL!
AW, HEY! GO FOR THE BALL—NOT THE MAN!
TRIP

THIS GIVES ME A CHANCE TO TRY A FREE-KICK MOVE WE'VE PRACTISED!

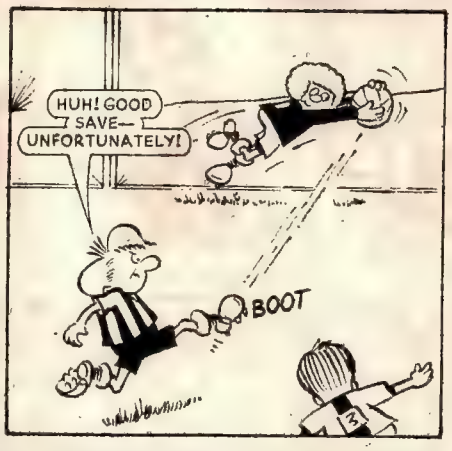

OH, GREAT GOAL!
NOD


RUBBISH! LOOK I SAVED IT!
YOU DIDN'T!
HE DID!
DIDN'T!

I WISH WE HADN'T BURST OUR ONE AND ONLY BALL YESTERDAY!
ARGUE! ARGUE! ARGUE! ARGUE!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!
BNO. 5.1.80

# BALL BOY

I'M HUNGRY FOR GOALS TODAY!
SWERVE


HUH! GOOD SAVE— UNFORTUNATELY!
BOOT

Soon—
THIS TIME I'LL GET CLOSER—HE WON'T STAND A CHANCE!

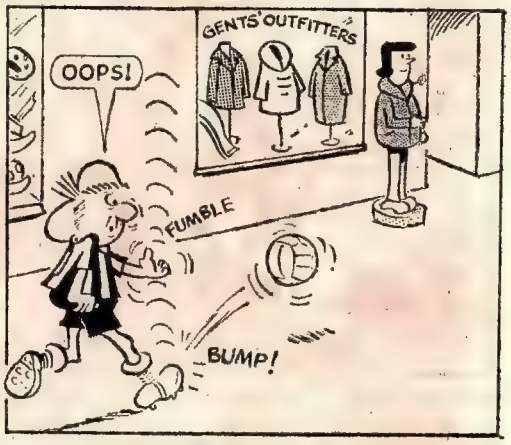
OH! A BIT TOO CLOSE!
HEH-HEH! THANKS FOR THE GIFT, BALL BOY!
TAP

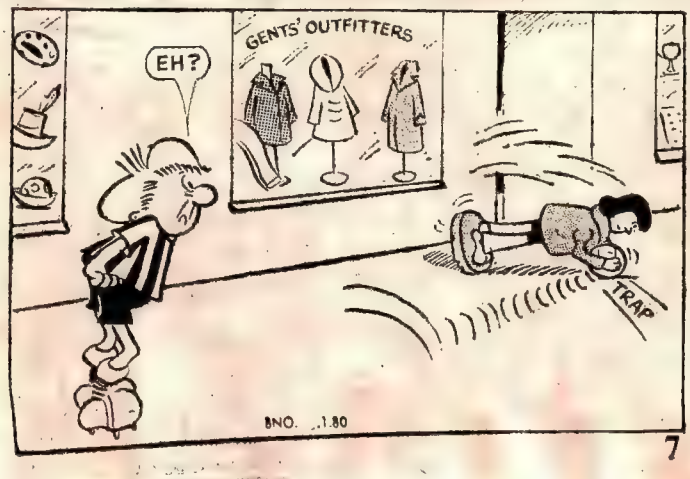
Shortly—
MY SUPER SWERVING SHOT WILL GET PAST HIM!
LEFT FLAT-FOOTED
BOOMPH!

SAVED!
THUD!
CLUTCH
WELL, WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT?

Full time—
AND I DIDN'T SCORE!

Later—
SHOPPING ARCADE
FANCY NOT EVEN GETTING ONE PAST THAT DUMMY!


GENTS' OUTFITTERS
OOPS!
FUMBLE
BUMP!


EH?
GENTS' OUTFITTERS
TRAP
BNO. ..1.80

WAAAH! I COULDN'T EVEN GET ONE PAST THAT DUMMY!
HEY, BOSS—THIS THING'S FALLEN OVER AGAIN!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!

# BALL BOY

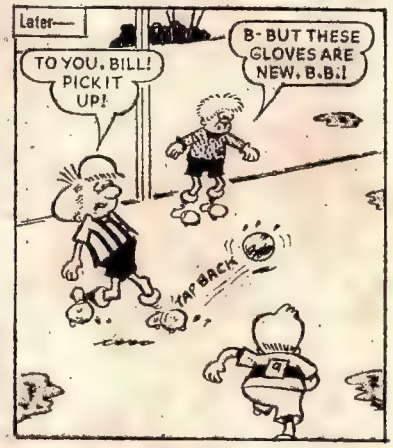
SHOULD BE AN EASY WIN FOR US TODAY.

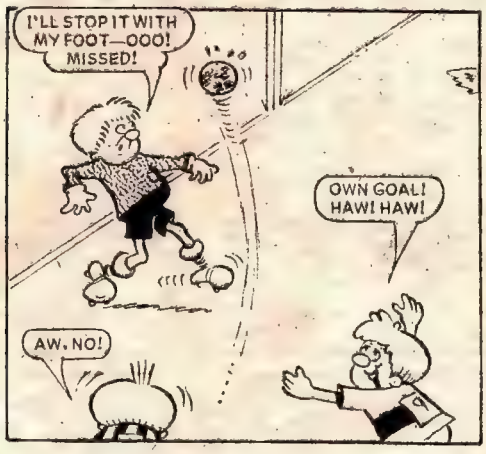
Soon—
TACKLE HIM—TACKLE!
NO! THE GROUND LOOKS A BIT MUDDY, B.B.!

So—
GOAL! OH, NO!
WELL, I WOULD HAVE GOT MY SOCKS DIRTY OVER THERE!
THUD!

HEADER IT CLEAR, DIMMY!

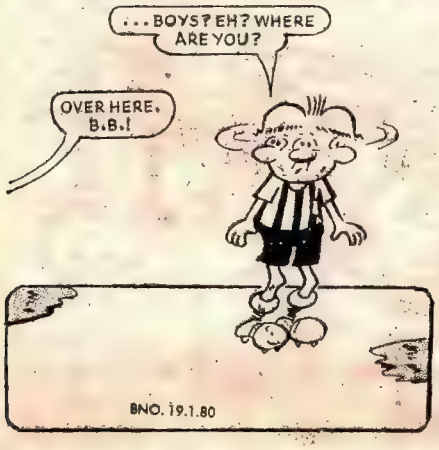
GOAL! THANKS, PAL!
OOPS! ALMOST HIT MY HEAD, THERE!
GASP!
DUCK

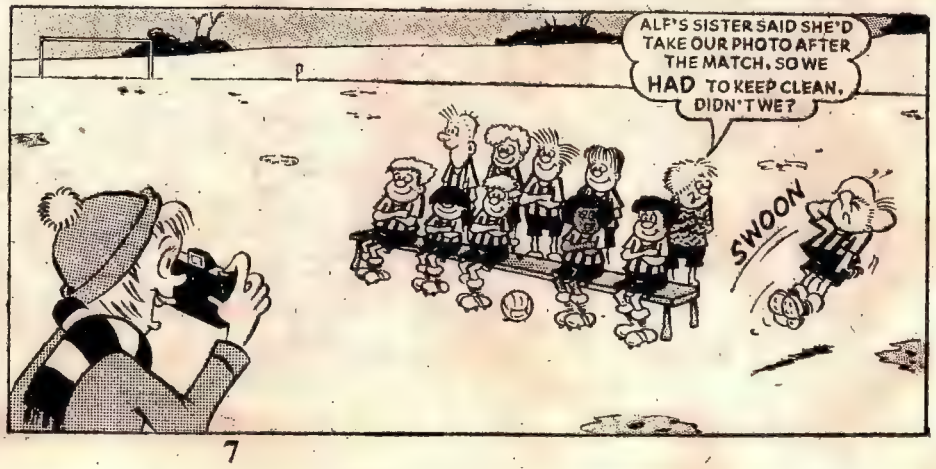

Later—
TO YOU, BILL! PICK IT UP!
B-BUT THESE GLOVES ARE NEW, B.B.!
HAP BACK


I'LL STOP IT WITH MY FOOT—OOO! MISSED!
OWN GOAL! HAW! HAW!
AW, NO!

FULL-TIME, AND WE'VE LOST!

HOW COULD WE HAVE LOST? TELL ME...


...BOYS? EH? WHERE ARE YOU?
OVER HERE, B.B.!
BNO. 19.1.80


ALF'S SISTER SAID SHE'D TAKE OUR PHOTO AFTER THE MATCH, SO WE HAD TO KEEP CLEAN, DIDN'T WE?
SWOON

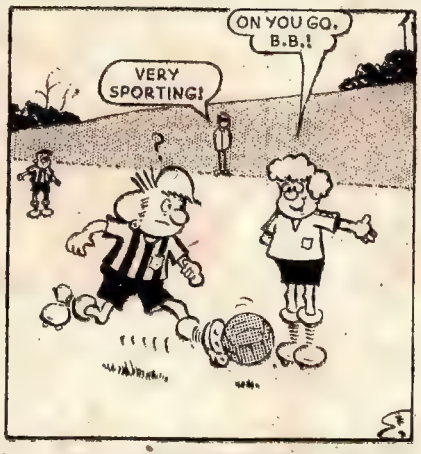
# BALL BOY

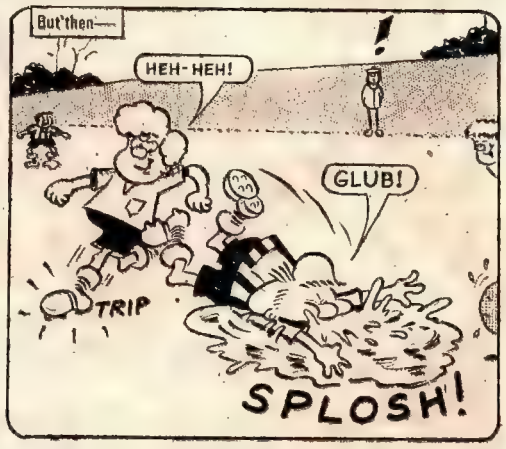
IT'S OURS!
NO! IT'S OURS!
GOING TO BE QUITE A HEATED GAME, THIS!

WE PROVIDED THE COIN FOR THE TOSS UP!

THEY'VE KICKED OFF AT LAST!
TAP!

OH, OH! COULD BE A FOUL COMING UP!

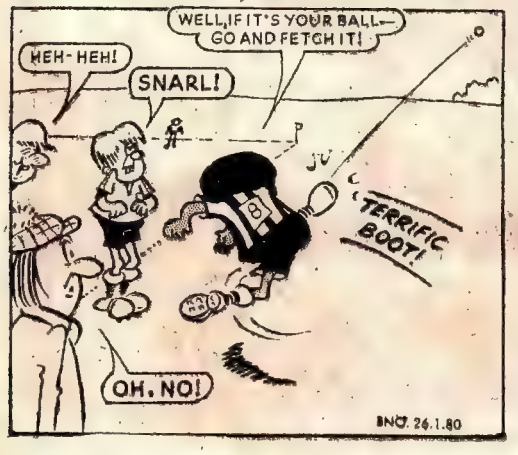

ON YOU GO, B.B.!
VERY SPORTING!


But then—
HEH-HEH!
GLUB!
TRIP
SPLOSH!

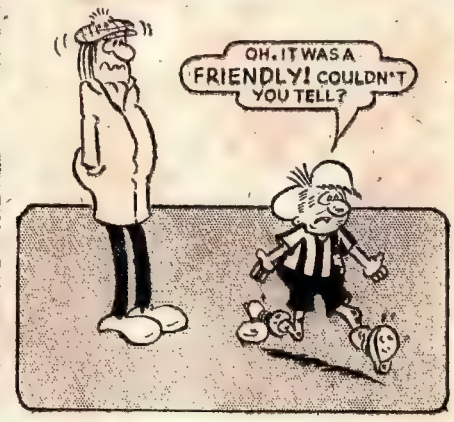
HAW-HAW! I DIDN'T WANT TO TRIP YOU TILL YOU'D REACHED THAT MUDDY PATCH!
GRRR!

Later—
OUR BALL!
TAP!

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT— HE'S GOING TO FETCH THE BALL.


WELL, IF IT'S YOUR BALL— GO AND FETCH IT!
HEH-HEH!
SNARL!
TERRIFIC BOOT!
OH, NO!
BNC. 26.1.80

At full time—
WHAT WAS THAT GAME, B.B.? A CUP FINAL OR A CRUNCH LEAGUE MATCH?
GRRR!


OH, IT WAS A FRIENDLY! COULDN'T YOU TELL?

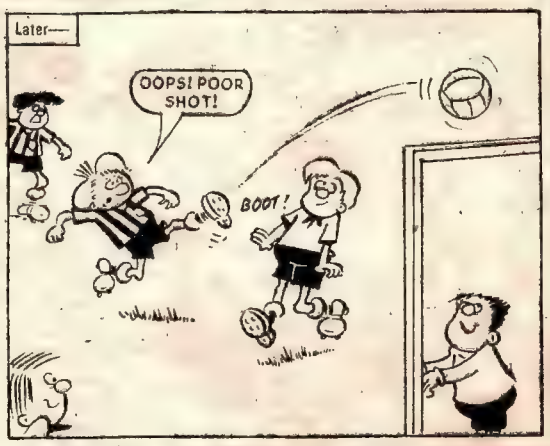
# BALL BOY

COME ON, B.B.—IT'S TIME WE WERE DOWN AT THE FOOTBALL PITCH!
HANG ON, BENJY.—I WANT TO PRACTISE THIS MOVE.

HUH! FAT LOT OF GOOD THAT'LL DO! WE'RE NOT PLAYING BASKET-BALL, MAN!
PERFECT!
PLOP!

THIS COULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT MOVE OF THE GAME!

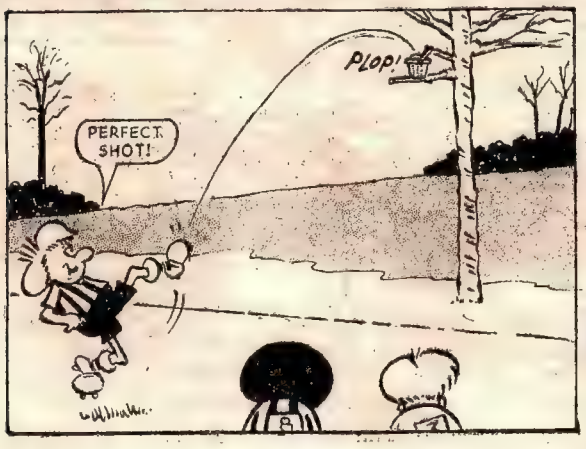
Then—
WHAT'S THE BASKET FOR? YOU'RE NOT SHOPPING AFTER THE GAME, ARE YOU?
YOU'LL SEE, BENJY.

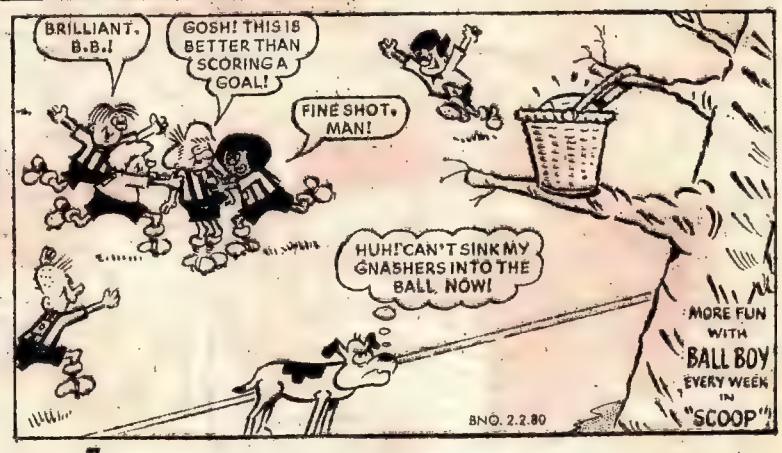

Later—
OOPS! POOR SHOT!
BOOT!

Soon—
AND ANOTHER! HOPE I'M MORE ACCURATE WHEN IT COMES TO THE IMPORTANT MOVE!
BOOT!

Then—
LOOK OUT! HE'S COMING!
OH, NO! HE SPOILED THE GAME LAST WEEK!

KEEP CALM, EVERYBODY!

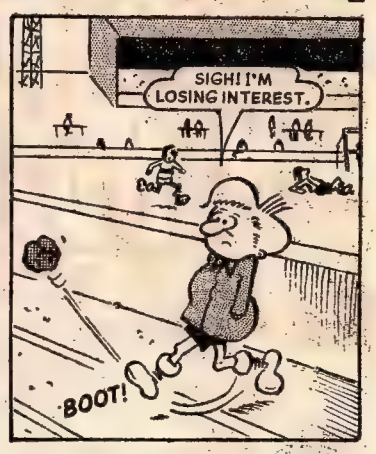

PERFECT SHOT!
PLOP!

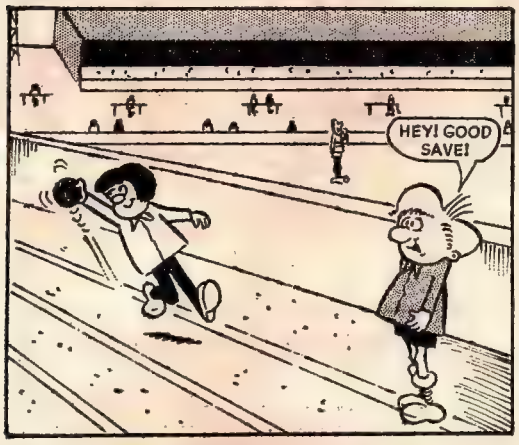

BRILLIANT, B.B.!
GOSH! THIS IS BETTER THAN SCORING A GOAL!
FINE SHOT, MAN!
HUH! CAN'T SINK MY GNASHERS INTO THE BALL NOW!
BNO. 2.2.80
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"

# BALL BOY

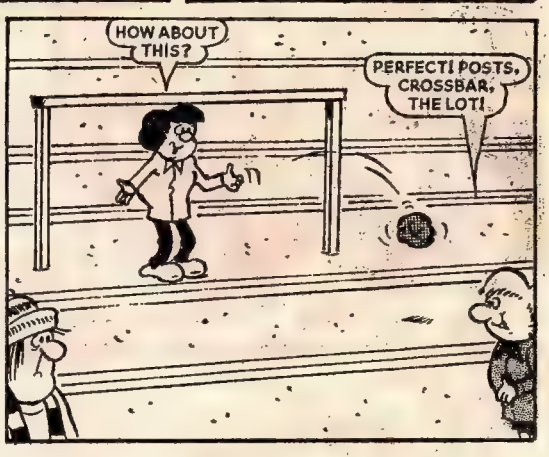
I'M GOING TO WATCH MUDCHESTER UNITED TODAY.

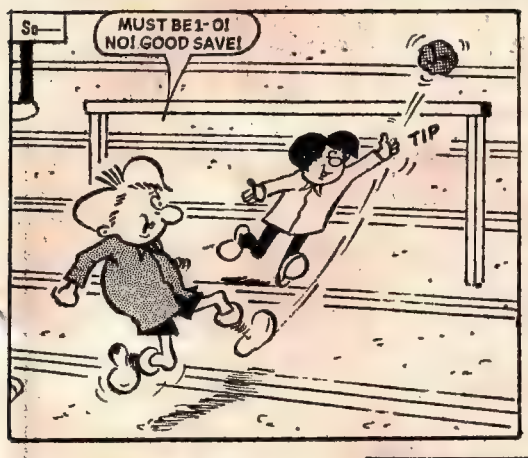
And—
HMM! A BIT BORING, THIS MATCH.
MISSED

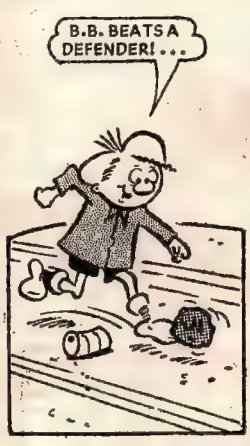

SIGH! I'M LOSING INTEREST.
BOOT!

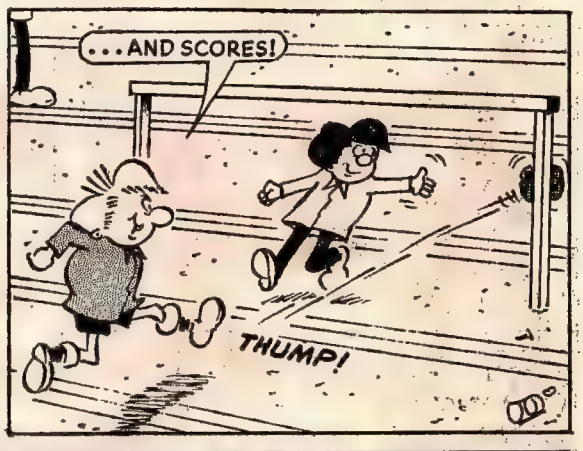

HEY! GOOD SAVE!

PITY WE'VE NOT GOT GOALS!

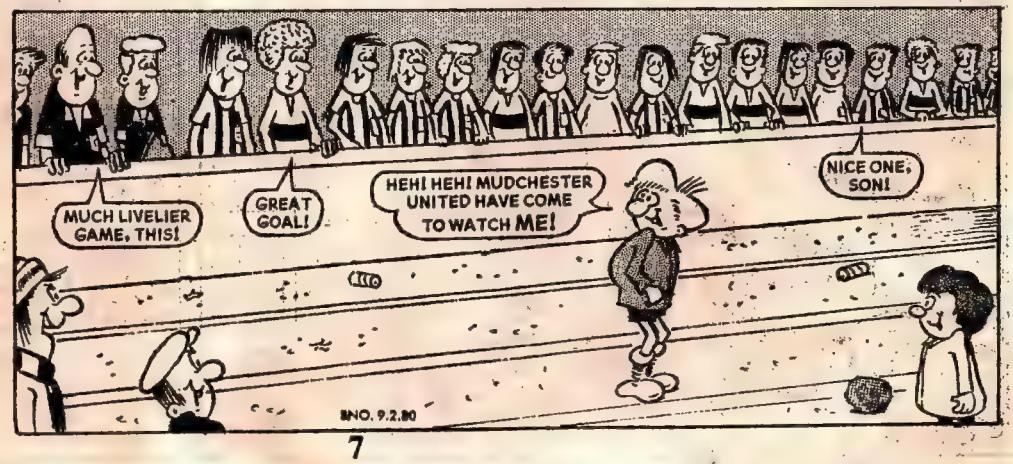

HOW ABOUT THIS?
PERFECT! POSTS, CROSSBAR, THE LOT!


So—
MUST BE 1-0! NO! GOOD SAVE!
TIP


B.B. BEATS A DEFENDER! . . .


. . . AND SCORES!
THUMP!

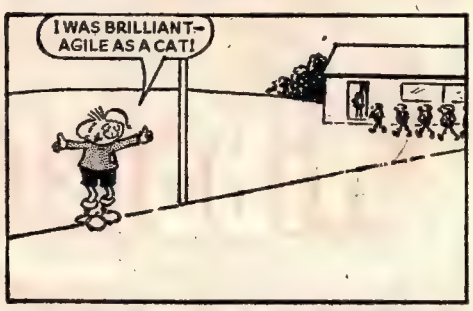
TERRIFIC APPLAUSE!
EH? WHAT'S THAT?
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"


MUCH LIVELIER GAME, THIS!
GREAT GOAL!
HEH! HEH! MUDCHESTER UNITED HAVE COME TO WATCH ME!
NICE ONE, SON!
BNO. 9.2.80

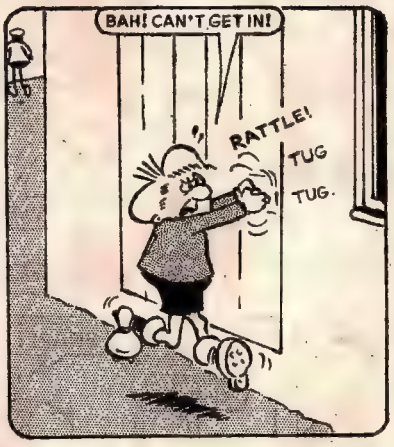
# BALL BOY

I'M HOPING FOR A "SHUT-OUT" TODAY— THAT'S WHEN THE OTHER TEAM DON'T SCORE AGAINST YOU.

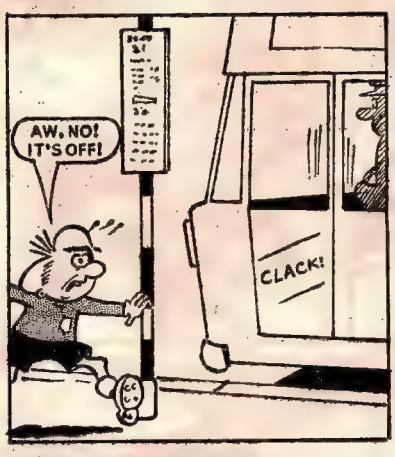
90 minutes later—
NIL—NIL! I'VE HAD A "SHUT-OUT"!
FULL TIME!


I WAS BRILLIANT— AGILE AS A CAT!

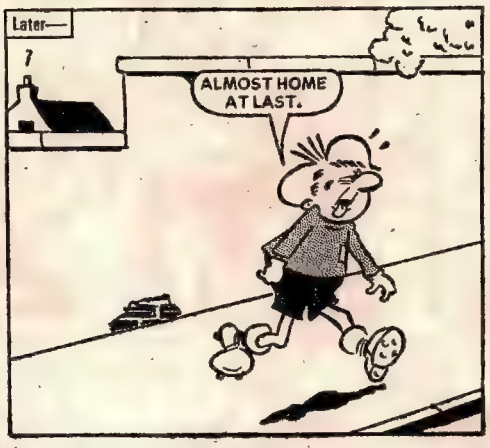
Later—
LOCK
OOPS! I'VE GONE ON A BIT—BETTER GET A MOVE ON!


BAH! CAN'T GET IN!
RATTLE!
TUG
TUG.

Then—
NUMBER TWENTY-ONE! THAT'S MY BUS!
READ THE "BEANO"


AW, NO! IT'S OFF!
CLACK!

HAVE TO WALK HOME NOW!


Later—
ALMOST HOME AT LAST.

WHAT'S THIS?

BAH! AND HE'S LOCKED THE DOOR!
B.B. YOU'RE LATE. I'VE GONE OUT TO LOOK FOR YOU. DAD.
BNO. 16.2.80

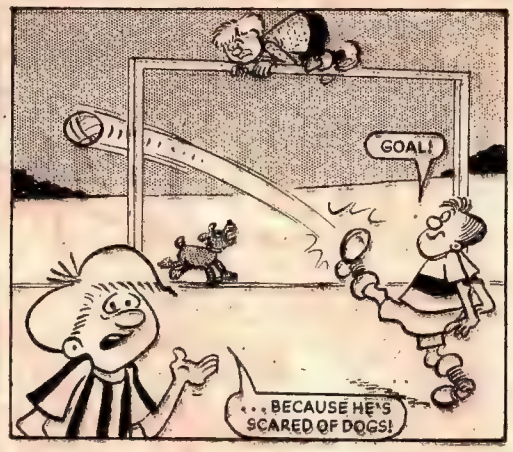
Later—
AH! THERE YOU ARE. DID YOU HAVE A "SHUT-OUT" TODAY?

SNARL! YES—SHUT OUT OF THE DRESSING-ROOMS — SHUT OUT OF THE BUS, AND SHUT OUT OF MY HOUSE!
COUNT COUNT
EH?

# BALL BOY

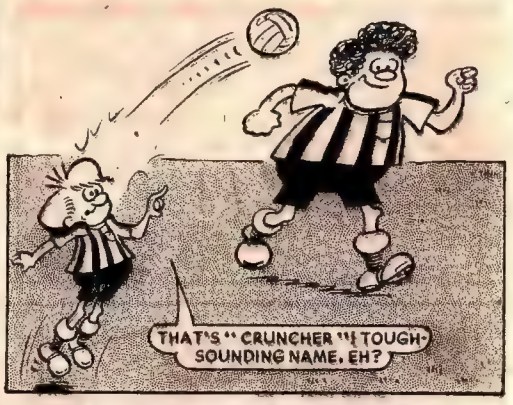
ALL OUR PLAYERS HAVE NICKNAMES, READERS!

WE CALL OUR KEEPER "THE CAT"—NOT BECAUSE HE'S AGILE . . .


GOAL!
. . . BECAUSE HE'S SCARED OF DOGS!

WE CALL OUR LEFT WINGER "CINDERELLA" . . .

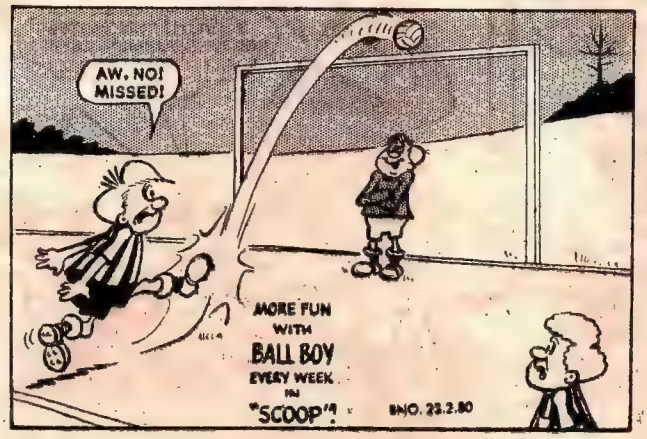
OOPS!
. . . LIKE CINDERELLA, HE ALWAYS MISSES THE BALL"!

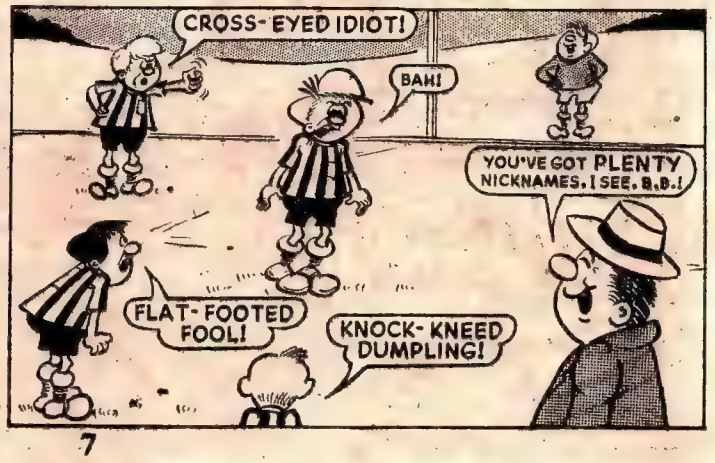

THAT'S "CRUNCHER"! TOUGH-SOUNDING NAME, EH?

BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE HE'S TOUGH IN THE TACKLE . . .

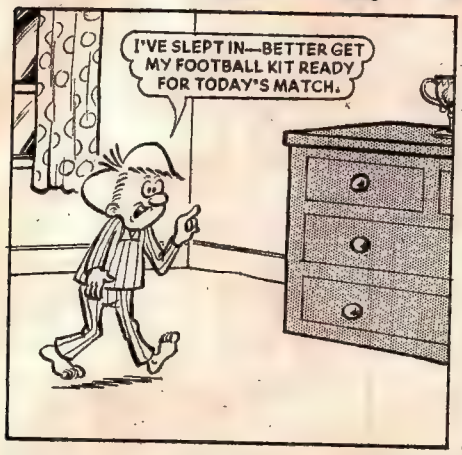
. . . THERE'S THE REASON—HE'S ALWAYS CRUNCHING SWEETS! HUH!
CRUNCH!
YOUR BALL!

WHAT DO THEY CALL YOU, BALL BOY?
I'LL TELL YOU AFTER I'VE SCORED THIS GOAL!

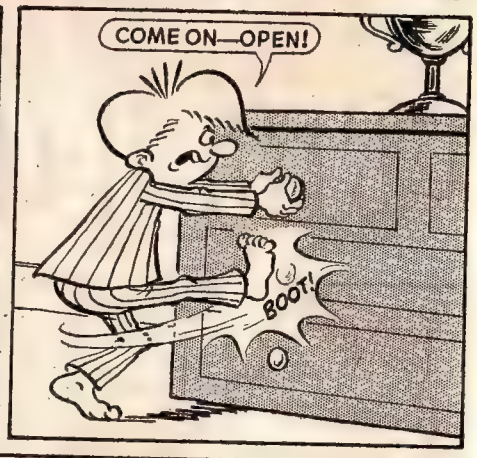

AW, NO! MISSED!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!
BNO. 23.2.80

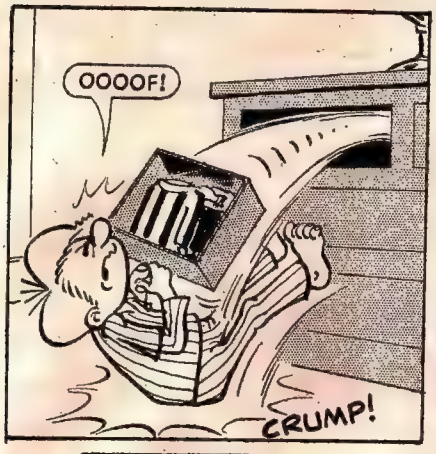

CROSS-EYED IDIOT!
BAH!
YOU'VE GOT PLENTY NICKNAMES, I SEE, B.B.!
FLAT-FOOTED FOOL!
KNOCK-KNEED DUMPLING!

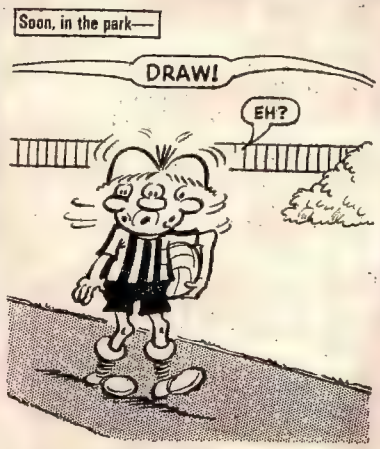
# BALL BOY

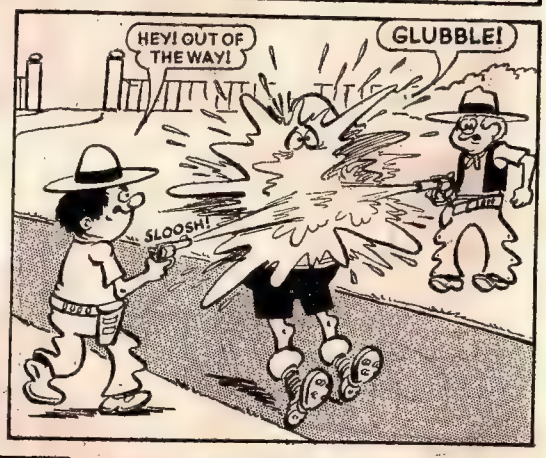

I'VE SLEPT IN—BETTER GET MY FOOTBALL KIT READY FOR TODAY'S MATCH.

MY KIT'S IN THIS PESKY DRAWER—BAH! IT'S STUCK AGAIN!
TUG


COME ON—OPEN!
BOOT!

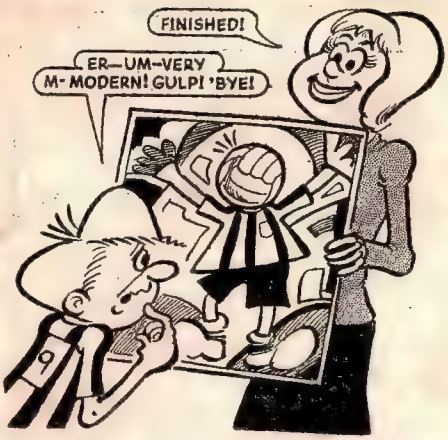

OOOOF!
CRUMP!


Soon, in the park—
DRAW!
EH?

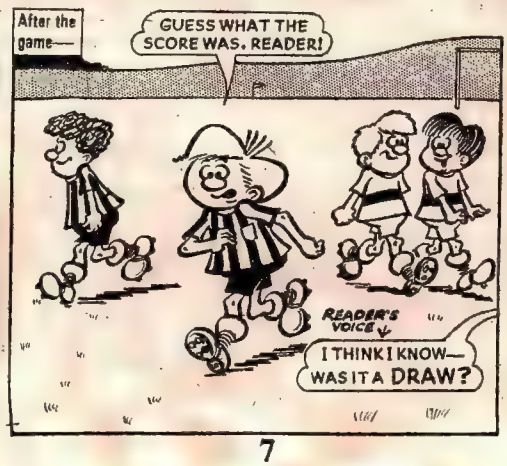

HEY! OUT OF THE WAY!
GLUBBLE!
SLOOSH!

STAND STILL FOR A MINUTE, AND I'LL DO A DRAWING OF YOU, BALL BOY.

COO! A DRAWING OF A STAR PLAYER LIKE ME SHOULD BE WORTH A LOT!


FINISHED!
ER—UM—VERY M-MODERN! GULP! 'BYE!

Before the game—
I'M FED UP WITH DRAWERS, QUICK DRAWS AND DRAWINGS!
BNO. 1.3.80


After the game—
GUESS WHAT THE SCORE WAS, READER!
READER'S VOICE
I THINK I KNOW—WAS IT A DRAW?

HUH! NO—WE LOST 4— OI WISH WE HAD DRAWN!
SLAM!

# BALL BOY

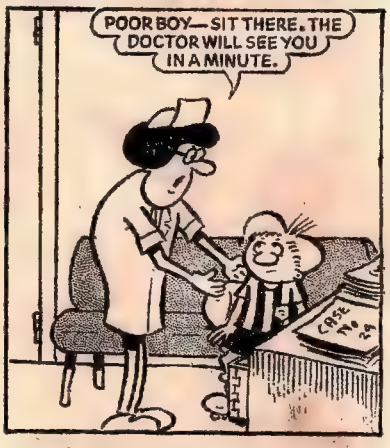
OOOOH!
THUD!

THAT'S A REALLY BAD CUT, B.B.!

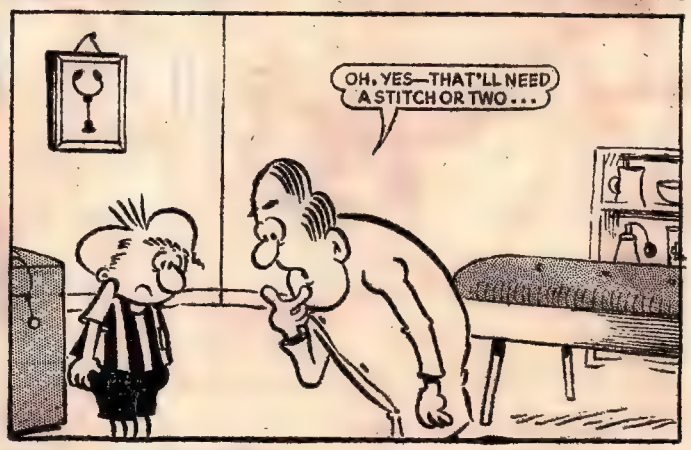
BEST TO GET IT SEEN TO RIGHT AWAY, B.B.!
THE DOCTOR'S SURGERY IS JUST OVER THERE!

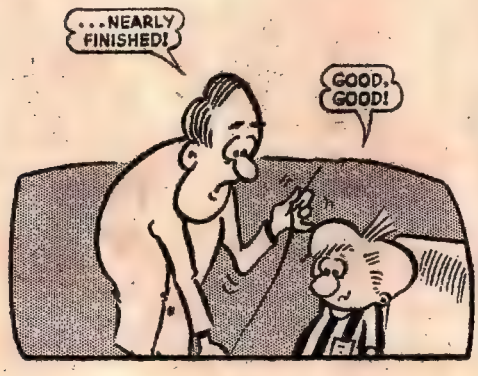
HELP YOUR DOCTOR - KEEP WELL!
NAME?
AW, REF—I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

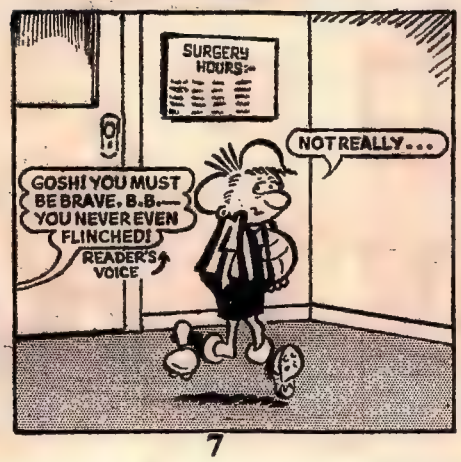
IT MUST BE BALL BOY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
ER—I'LL NEED A FEW STITCHES IN A CUT!

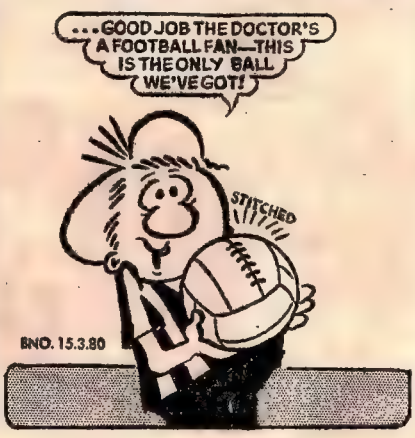

POOR BOY—SIT THERE. THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU IN A MINUTE.

NEXT!
THAT'S YOU, BALL BOY.

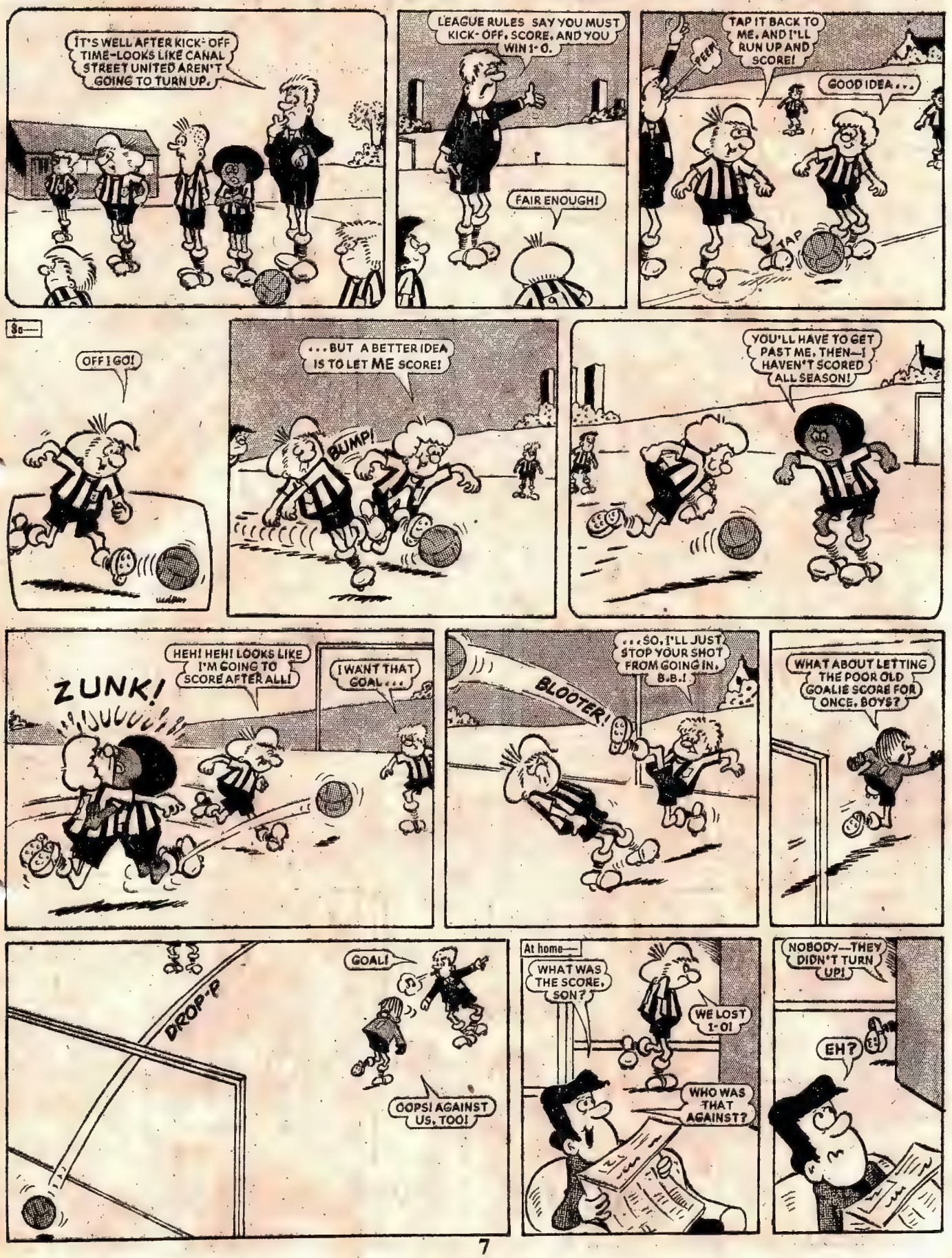

OH, YES—THAT'LL NEED A STITCH OR TWO...


...NEARLY FINISHED!
GOOD, GOOD!

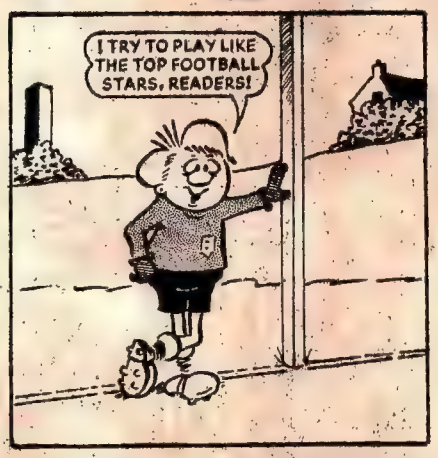

SURGERY HOURS:-
NOT REALLY...
GOSH! YOU MUST BE BRAVE, B.B.—YOU NEVER EVEN FLINCHED!
READER'S VOICE

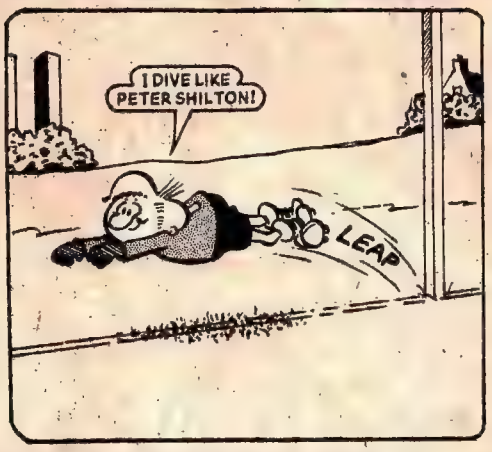

...GOOD JOB THE DOCTOR'S A FOOTBALL FAN—THIS IS THE ONLY BALL WE'VE GOT!
STITCHED
BNO. 15.3.80

# BALL BOY


IT'S WELL AFTER KICK-OFF TIME—LOOKS LIKE CANAL STREET UNITED AREN'T GOING TO TURN UP.
LEAGUE RULES SAY YOU MUST KICK-OFF, SCORE, AND YOU WIN 1-0.
FAIR ENOUGH!
PEEP
TAP IT BACK TO ME, AND I'LL RUN UP AND SCORE!
GOOD IDEA...
TAP
So—
OFF I GO!
...BUT A BETTER IDEA IS TO LET ME SCORE!
BUMP!
YOU'LL HAVE TO GET PAST ME, THEN—I HAVEN'T SCORED ALL SEASON!
ZUNK!
HEH! HEH! LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO SCORE AFTER ALL!
I WANT THAT GOAL...
BLOOTER!
...SO, I'LL JUST STOP YOUR SHOT FROM GOING IN, B.B.!
WHAT ABOUT LETTING THE POOR OLD GOALIE SCORE FOR ONCE, BOYS?
DROP-P
GOAL!
OOPS! AGAINST US, TOO!
At home—
WHAT WAS THE SCORE, SON?
WE LOST 1-0!
WHO WAS THAT AGAINST?
NOBODY—THEY DIDN'T TURN UP!
EH?

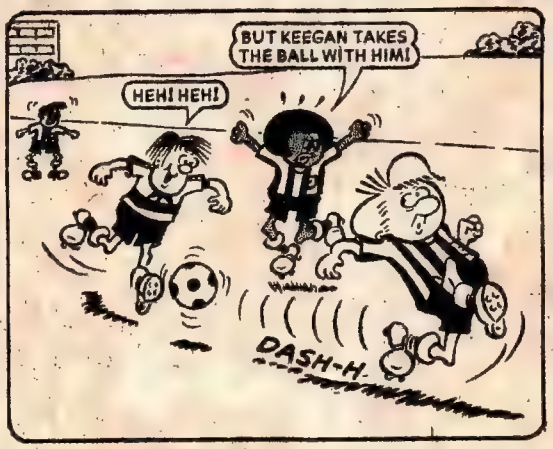
# BALL BOY


I TRY TO PLAY LIKE THE TOP FOOTBALL STARS, READERS!

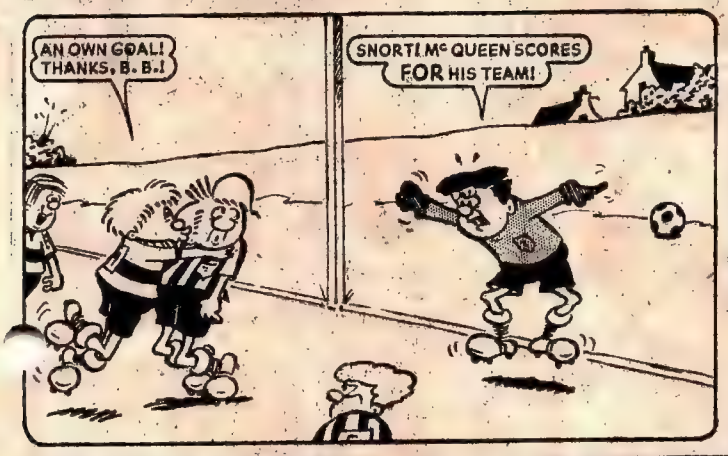

I DIVE LIKE PETER SHILTON!
LEAP

EXCEPT SHILTON SAVES THE BALL!
GOAL!
BOOT

B. B.'s moved out of goals—
I'M NEARLY AS FAST AS KEVIN KEEGAN—AHEM!


BUT KEEGAN TAKES THE BALL WITH HIM!
HEH! HEH!
DASH-H

AND I'M GOOD IN THE AIR LIKE GORDON Mc QUEEN!
NOD


AN OWN GOAL! THANKS, B. B.!
SNORT! Mc QUEEN SCORES FOR HIS TEAM!

After the game—
WONDER IF KIDS WILL EVER TRY TO PLAY LIKE ME?

Then—
WOW! THAT WAS JUST LIKE ONE OF BALL BOY'S SHOTS!

FAME AT LAST! MUST SEE WHO'S COPYING ME!

But—
HUH!
YES—THAT SHOT WAS AS WILD AS ONE OF BALL BOY'S!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!
BNO. 29.3.80

# BALL BOY

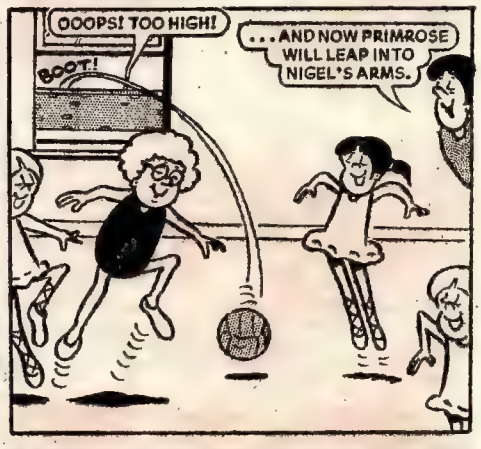
HUH! NONE OF MY PALS ARE ABLE TO PLAY FOOTBALL TODAY.

WAIT! THERE'S NIGEL—MAYBE HE'D LIKE A GAME!

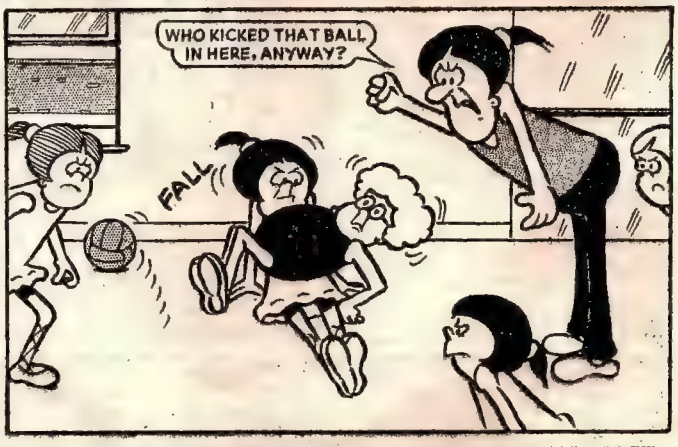
FANCY A GAME OF FOOTBALL, NIGEL?
CERTAINLY NOT! I'M OFF TO BALLET CLASS. FOOTBALL'S JUST A LOT OF FOLK CHASING A RUFFIAN WITH A BALL!

OH, WELL—I'LL JUST HAVE TO PLAY ON MY OWN!
SCHOOL OF BALLET

I'LL PRACTISE MY SWERVING KICKS.
GOAL


OOOPS! TOO HIGH!
BOOT!
...AND NOW PRIMROSE WILL LEAP INTO NIGEL'S ARMS.

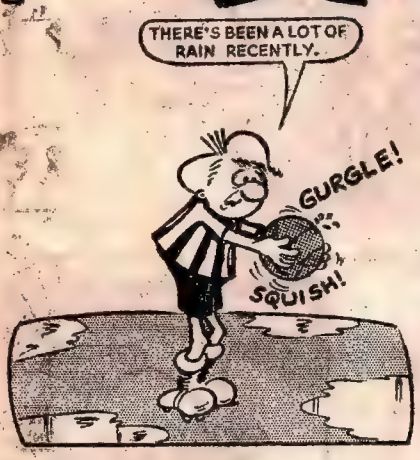
NO! THE OTHER WAY ROUND!
BOUNCE


WHO KICKED THAT BALL IN HERE, ANYWAY?
FALL

ER—I'LL JUST HAVE THIS BACK—AHEM!
SNORT! WE MIGHT HAVE GUESSED!

And—
SCHOOL OF BALLET
FOOTBALLING PEST!
GASP! LOOK'S LIKE BALLET'S A LOT OF FOLK CHASING AFTER A RUFFIAN WITH A BALL, TOO! WHEEZE!
BNO. 5.4.80

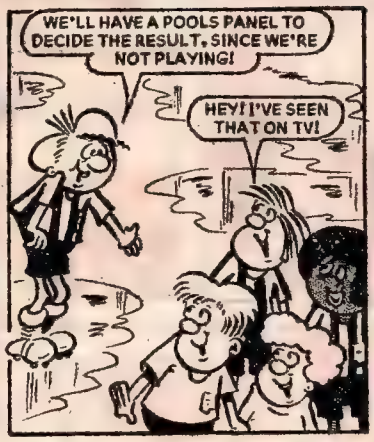
# BALL BOY


THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF RAIN RECENTLY.
GURGLE!
SQUISH!

HMM! IT'S GOING TO BE A WET GAME.

So—
HUH! WE'RE NOT PLAYING IN THAT!
RIGHT—I CAN'T SWIM!

MUST HAVE A MATCH— I'VE AN IDEA TO GET THEM GOING!
LET'S GO HOME.


WE'LL HAVE A POOLS PANEL TO DECIDE THE RESULT, SINCE WE'RE NOT PLAYING!
HEY! I'VE SEEN THAT ON TV!

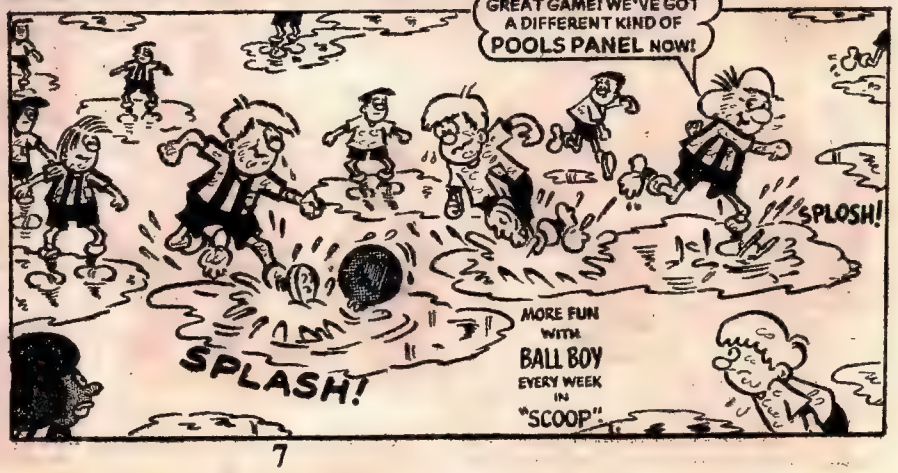
WE'D PROBABLY TAKE A 5-0 LEAD!
NO BOTHER!
YOU BET!

BUT WE'D STORM BACK TO LEAD 6-5!
WELL PLAYED. US!

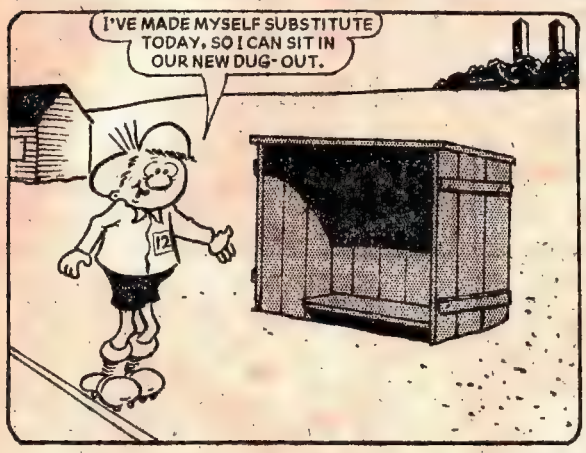
WE'D GET TWO PENALTIES, AND SCORE THEM BOTH!
YAHOO! WE'RE WINNING AGAIN!

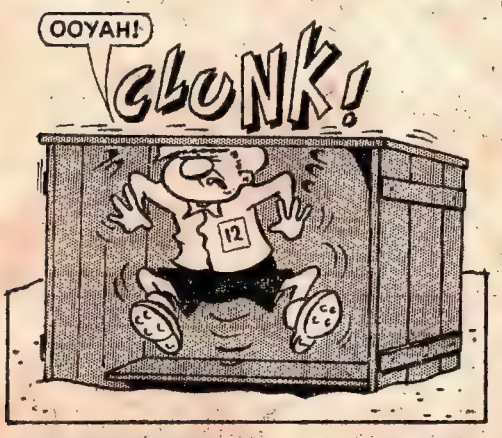
YOU'D NEVER GET A PENALTY PAST ME!
WOULD SO!

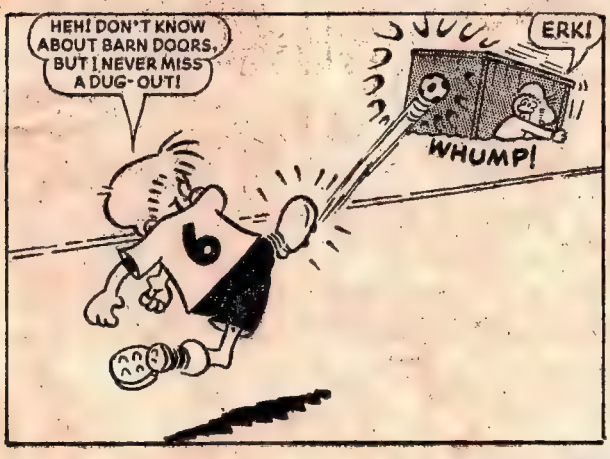
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SETTLE THIS! COME ON!

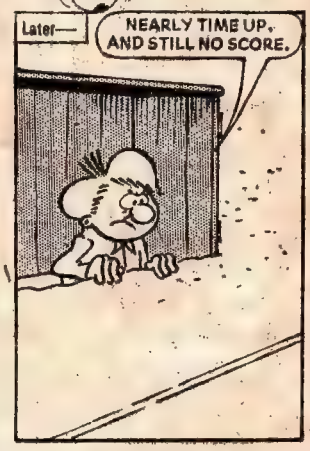

GREAT GAME! WE'VE GOT A DIFFERENT KIND OF POOLS PANEL NOW!
SPLOSH!
SPLASH!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP".

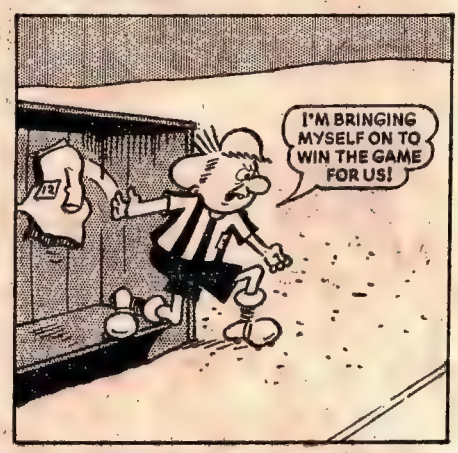
# BALL BOY



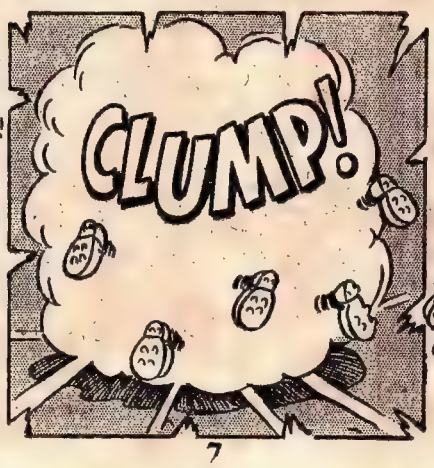




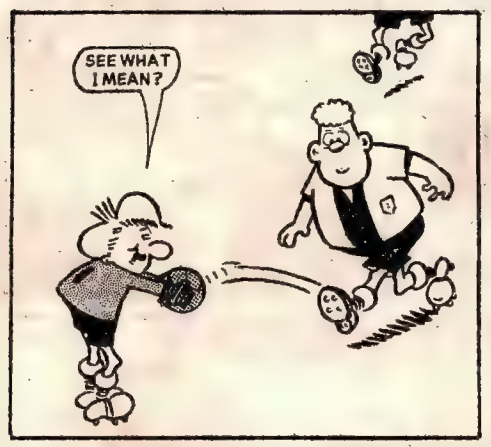



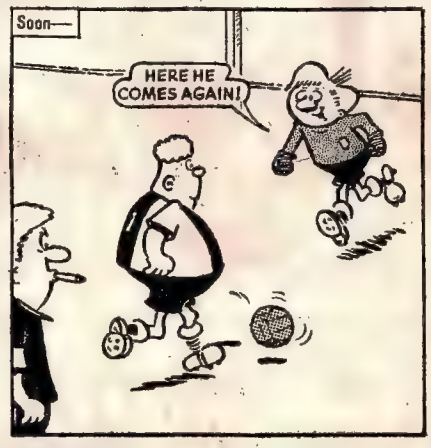



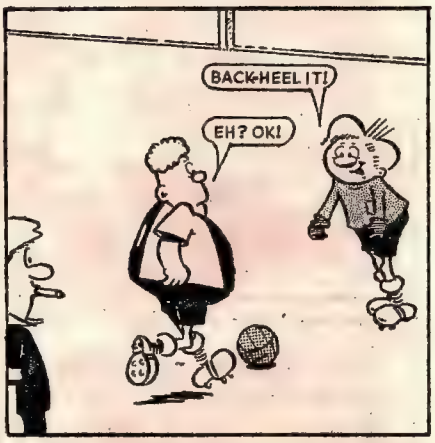
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!

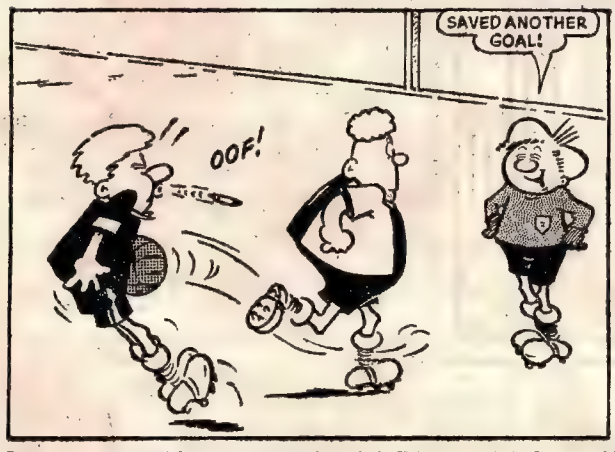


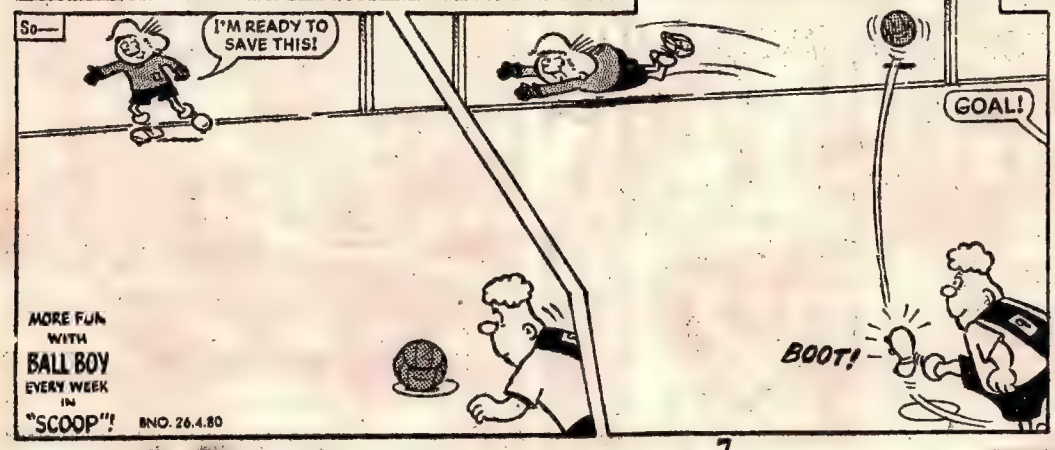
# BALL BOY

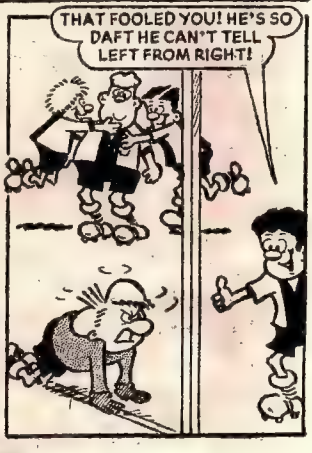





MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!

BNO. 26.4.80

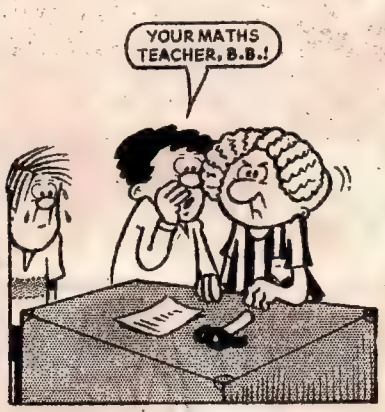
# BALL BOY

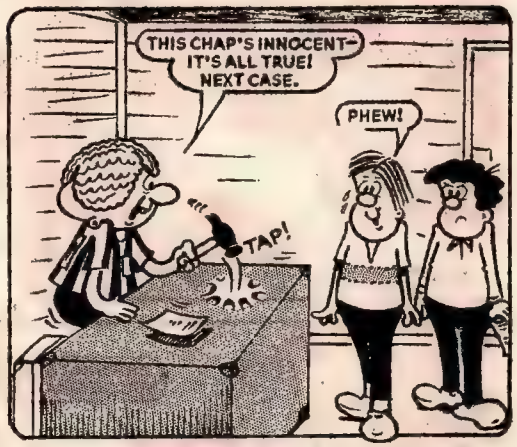
HMM! THERE'S BEEN A FEW SENDINGS-OFF IN OUR LEAGUE RECENTLY.
LEAGUE CRIME LIST

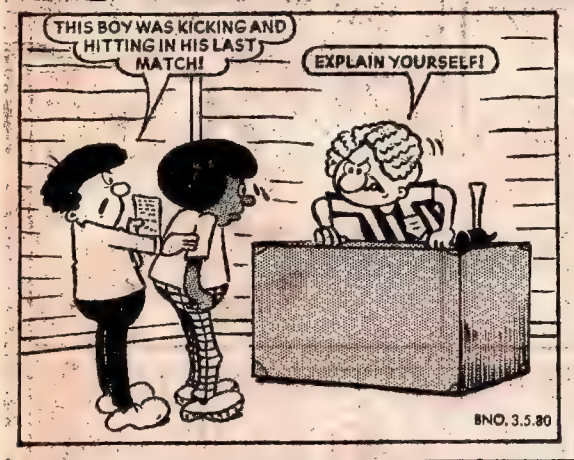
MUST GET READY TO DEAL WITH THIS BAD BEHAVIOUR.

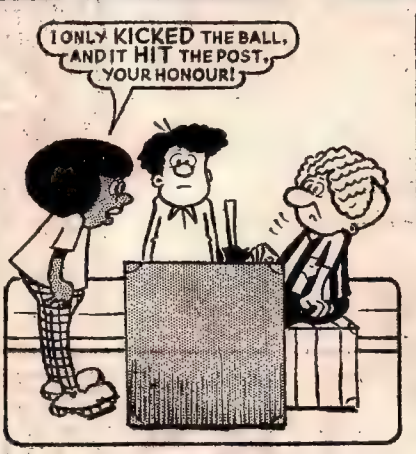
In B.B.'s shed—
MUM'S OLD WIG
FIRST CASE.
YES, YOUR HONOUR!

HE'S ACCUSED OF CALLING THE REF, A FOUR-EYED OWL!
DISGRACEFUL! WHO WAS THE POOR OLD REF?

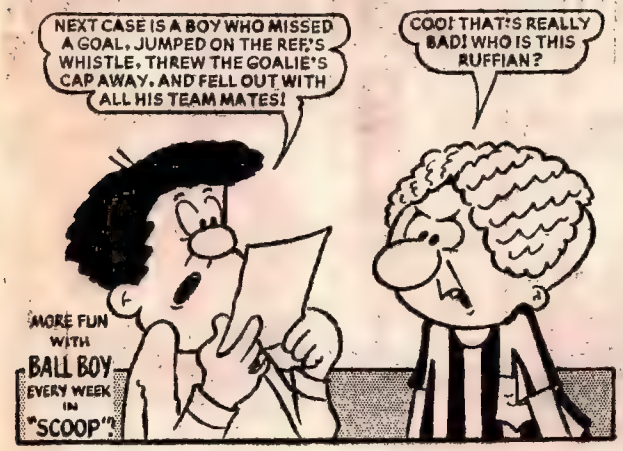

YOUR MATHS TEACHER, B.B.!


THIS CHAP'S INNOCENT—IT'S ALL TRUE! NEXT CASE.
PHEW!
TAP!

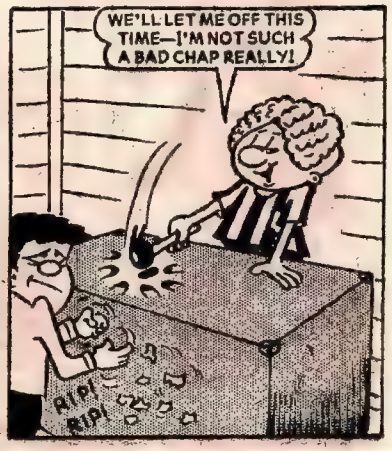

THIS BOY WAS KICKING AND HITTING IN HIS LAST MATCH!
EXPLAIN YOURSELF!
BNO. 3.5.80


I ONLY KICKED THE BALL, AND IT HIT THE POST, YOUR HONOUR!

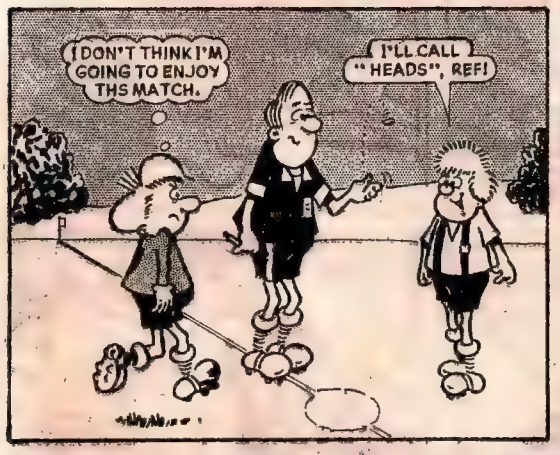
CLEARED! IMAGINE GETTING SENT OFF FOR THAT!
RELIEF!


NEXT CASE IS A BOY WHO MISSED A GOAL, JUMPED ON THE REF'S WHISTLE, THREW THE GOALIE'S CAP AWAY, AND FELL OUT WITH ALL HIS TEAM MATES!
COO! THAT'S REALLY BAD! WHO IS THIS RUFFIAN?
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP".

YOU, B.B.! DON'T YOU REMEMBER THE GAME AGAINST CANAL STREET?
OO-ER! HE'S RIGHT!


WE'LL LET ME OFF THIS TIME—I'M NOT SUCH A BAD CHAP REALLY!
RIP! RIP!

# BALL BOY

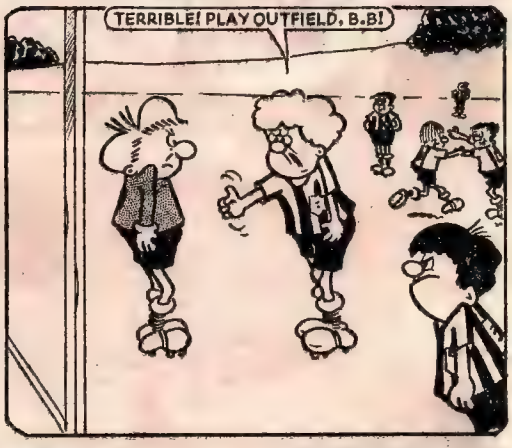

I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO ENJOY THS MATCH.
I'LL CALL "HEADS", REF!

YOU WIN! SHAKE HANDS NOW...

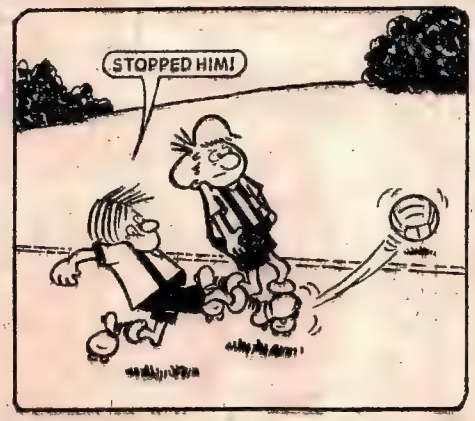
UNFRIENDLY CHAP, THAT!

Soon—
SAVE IT, B.B.!

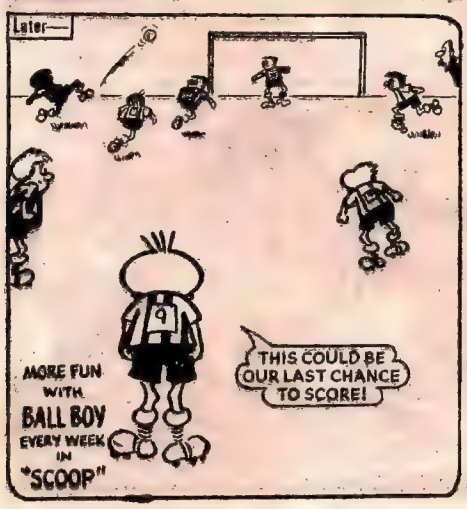
GOAL!
GASP!


TERRIBLE! PLAY OUTFIELD, B.B!

And soon—
GOOD RUN, THIS!


STOPPED HIM!

OUR THROW! NO— YOUR THROW, I MEAN!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH B.B.? THAT WAS OUR BALL!

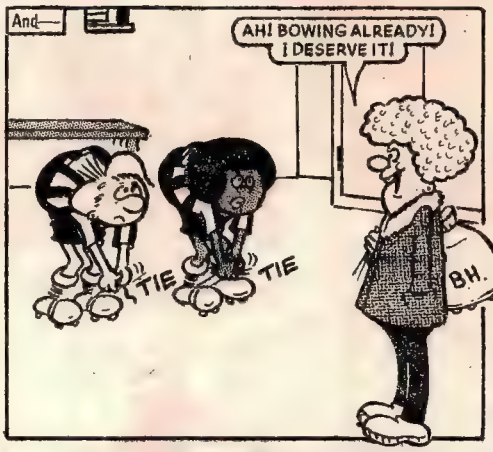

Later—
THIS COULD BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO SCORE!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"

GOAL!
YAHOO! A LAST MINUTE EQUALISER!

SO THAT'S WHAT WAS WRONG—HIS SHORTS ELASTIC HAS SNAPPED!
AW, NO! AFTER ME HOLDING THEM UP ALL THE GAME, TOO!
BNO. 10.5.80

# BALL BOY

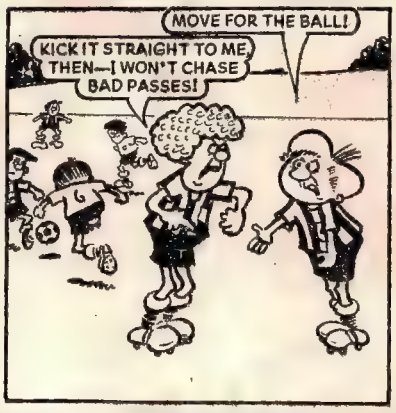
WE'RE TRYING OUT A NEW PLAYER TODAY, BENJY. HE SHOULD BE HERE SOON.


And—
AH! BOWING ALREADY! I DESERVE IT!
TIE
TIE
BH.

YOU MUST HAVE HEARD WHAT A SUPER PLAYER I AM!
THIS CHAP'S A BIT OF A BIG HEAD.

The game starts—
LET'S SEE IF HE'S AS GOOD AS HE THINKS HE IS.
INCH PERFECT PASS

NOT A MOVE

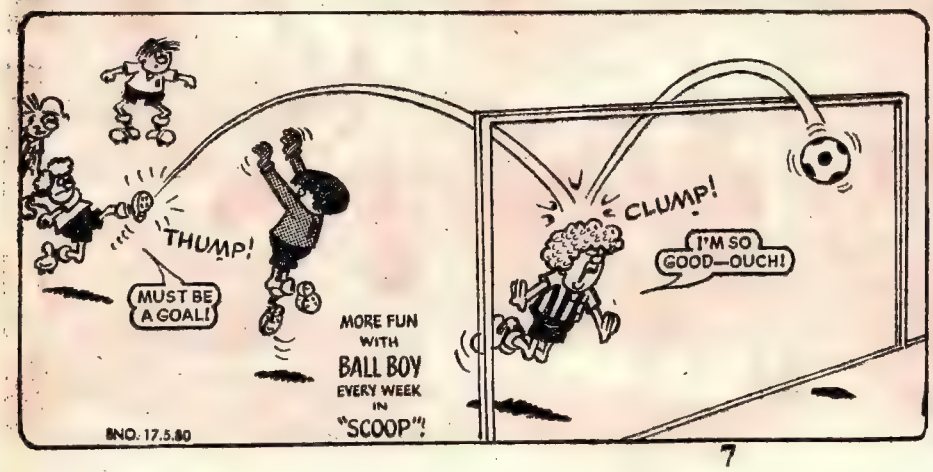

MOVE FOR THE BALL!
KICK IT STRAIGHT TO ME, THEN—I WON'T CHASE BAD PASSES!

Later—
GOOD GAME BENJY'S HAVING!
SWERVE

WHAT A GOAL THAT'S GOING TO BE, BENJY!
SLIDE
SLIDE
CHEEKY TAP

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
IT'S THERE! I'VE SCORED! WHAT A MARVELLOUS PLAYER I AM!
TAP!

GASP! I HOPE THEY DON'T SCORE NOW!
I'LL HIT IT FIRST TIME!
PASS
I'M THE GREATEST!
STILL AT IT


THUMP!
MUST BE A GOAL!
CLUMP!
I'M SO GOOD—OUCH!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!
BNO. 17.5.80

TIME UP!
WHAT A CLEARANCE! GOOD JOB BIGHEAD HAS A BIG HEAD!
HEH! HEH!
HEH! HEH!

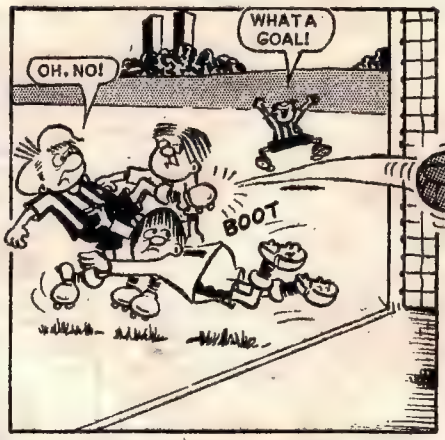
# BALL BOY

KICK OFF!
I'VE GOT MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT THIS CUP FINAL!
TAP

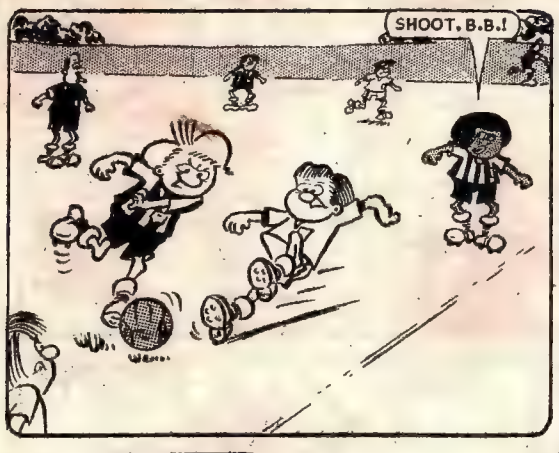
OOH! I'VE SCORED!
NOD

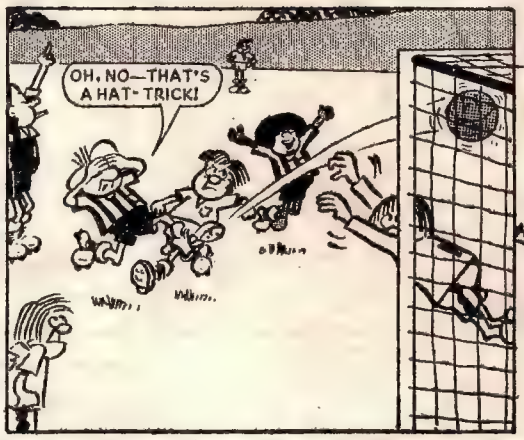
GREAT GOAL, B.B.!
HUH! THANKS!
MAGIC!

IT'S YOURS, B.B.!


OH, NO!
WHAT A GOAL!
BOOT

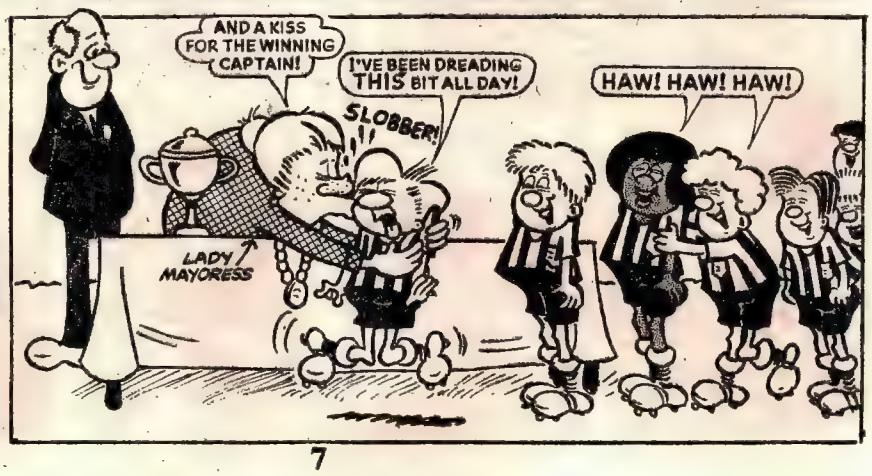
KEEP PLAYING LIKE THIS, AND WE'RE BOUND TO WIN!
IT LOOKS LIKE IT!


SHOOT, B.B.!


OH, NO—THAT'S A HAT-TRICK!

FULL TIME! WE'VE WON!
HORRIFIED

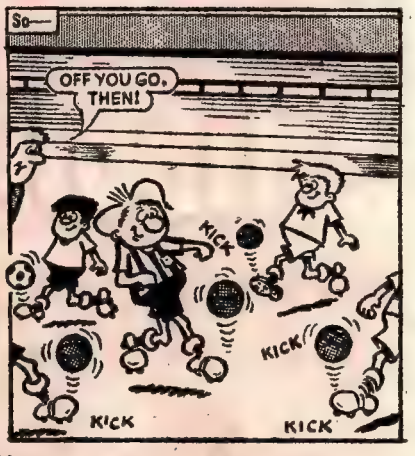
WHAT'S UP, B.B.? YOU SHOULD BE REALLY PLEASED!
OH, I AM! SIGH . . .
8NO. 31.5.80

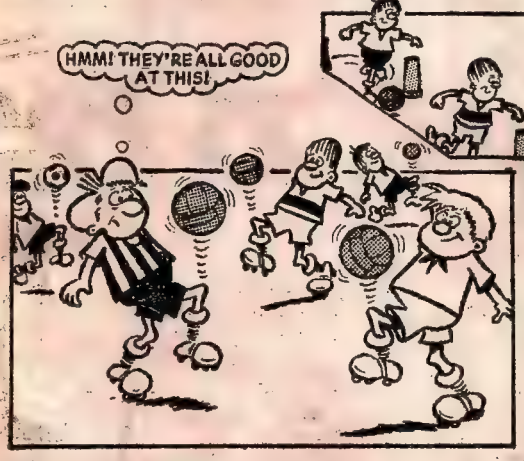

AND A KISS FOR THE WINNING CAPTAIN!
I'VE BEEN DREADING THIS BIT ALL DAY!
SLOBBER!
LADY MAYORESS
HAW! HAW! HAW!

# BALL BOY

HOPE I'M IN GOOD FORM TODAY.
MUDCHESTER UTD. F.C.

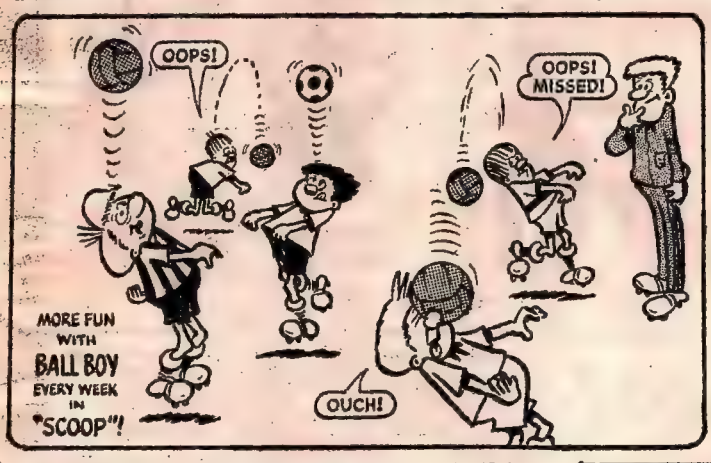
RIGHT, LADS—YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT—THE BOY WITH THE BEST BALL CONTROL WINS A FREE TICKET FOR OUR BIG CUP-TIE THIS AFTERNOON!


So—
OFF YOU GO, THEN!
KICK
KICK
KICK
KICK

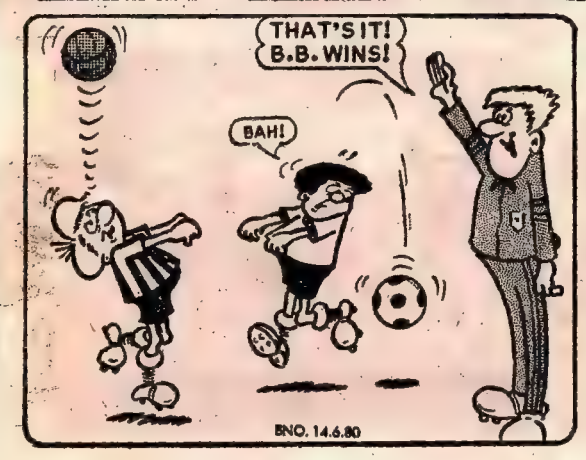

HMM! THEY'RE ALL GOOD AT THIS!

AND THIS!

AH, BUT NOW WE COME TO MY SPECIALITY!


OOPS!
OOPS! MISSED!
OUCH!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!

THERE ARE ONLY TWO LEFT NOW!

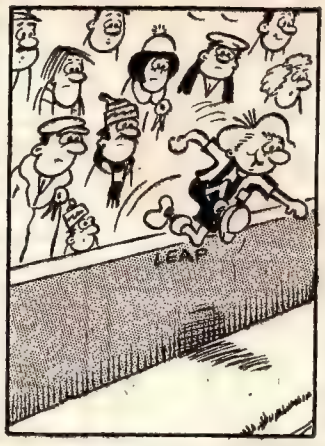

THAT'S IT! B.B. WINS!
BAH!
BNO. 14.6.80

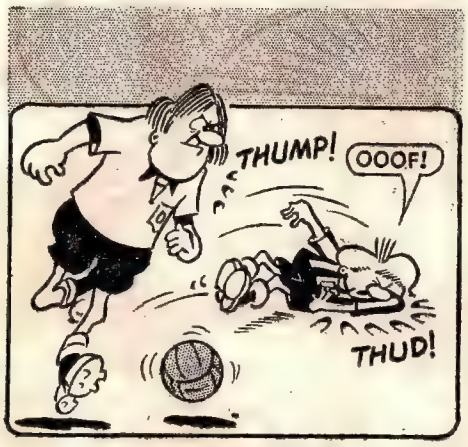
YOU LOOK AS IF YOU COULD GO ON ALL DAY, B.B.!
I'LL STOP IN TIME FOR THE BIG MATCH!

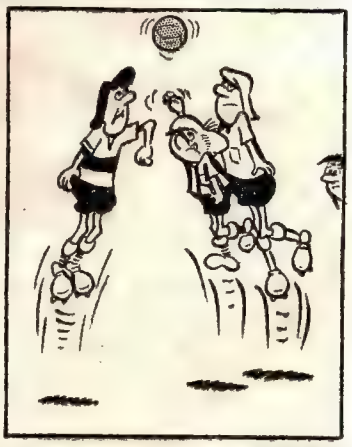
But—
HUH! MY NECK'S ALL STIFF! CAN'T SEE THE MATCH AT ALL!

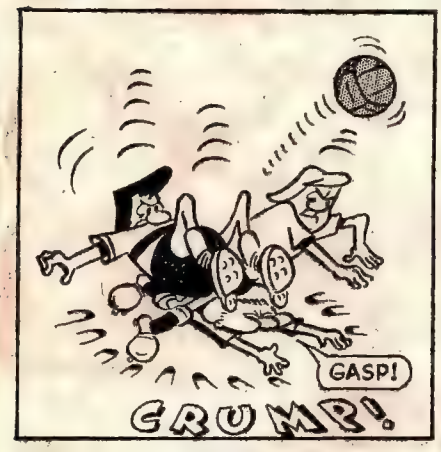
# BALL BOY

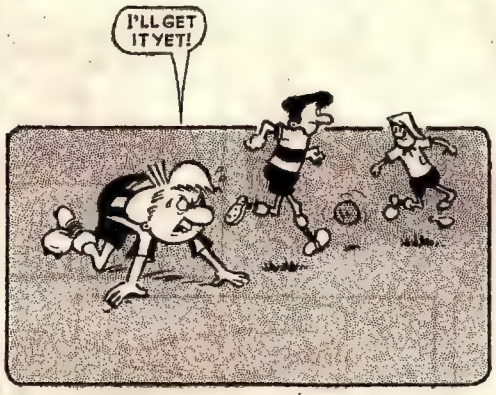
END OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT— THANK YOU!
OH, GREAT!


LEAP

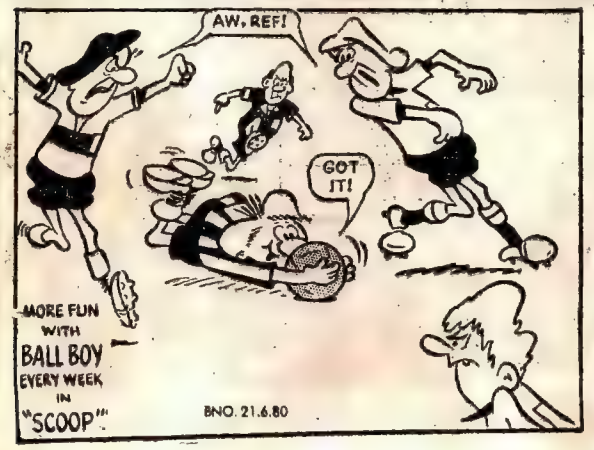

THUMP!
OOOF!
THUD!



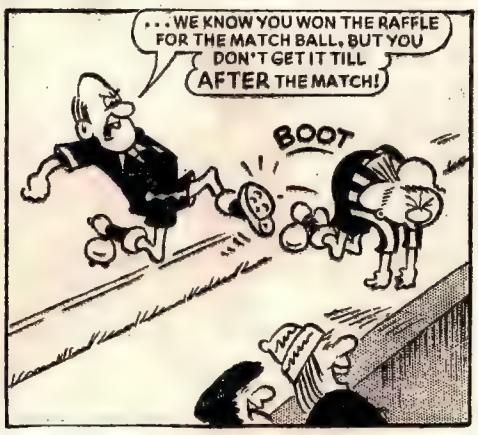

GASP!
GRUMP!


I'LL GET IT YET!

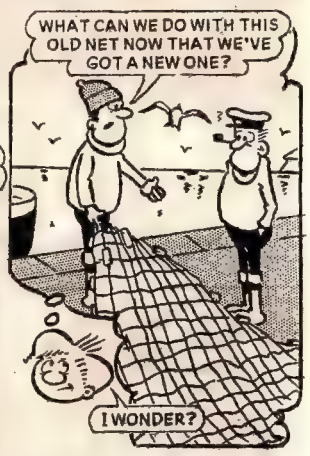
DIVE

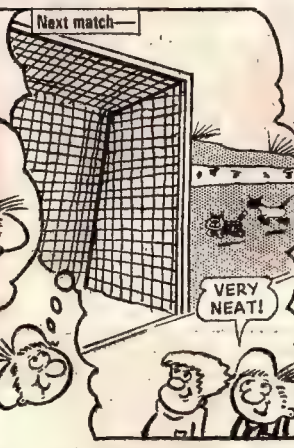

AW, REF!
GOT IT!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!
BNO. 21.6.80

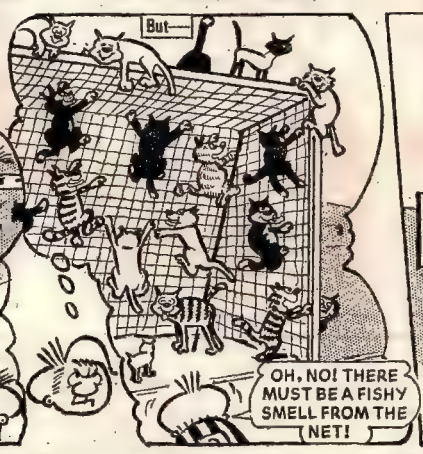
SNARL! LOOK HERE, YOU...

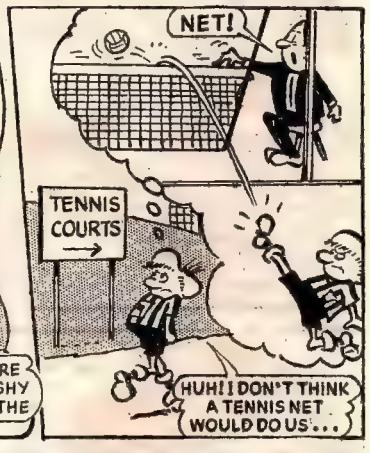

...WE KNOW YOU WON THE RAFFLE FOR THE MATCH BALL, BUT YOU DON'T GET IT TILL AFTER THE MATCH!
BOOT

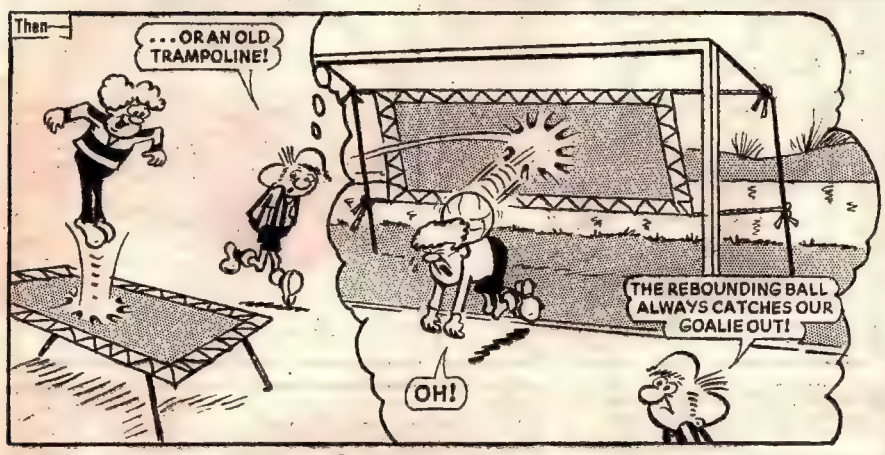
# BALL BOY

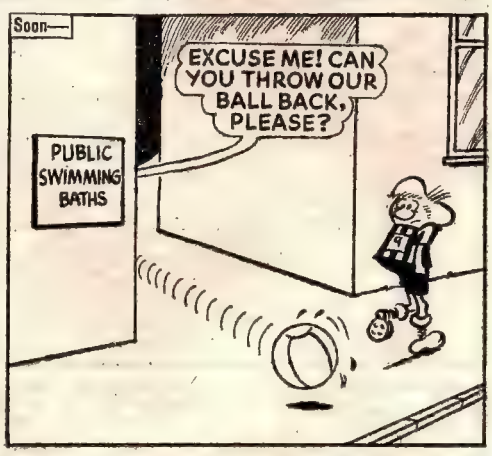


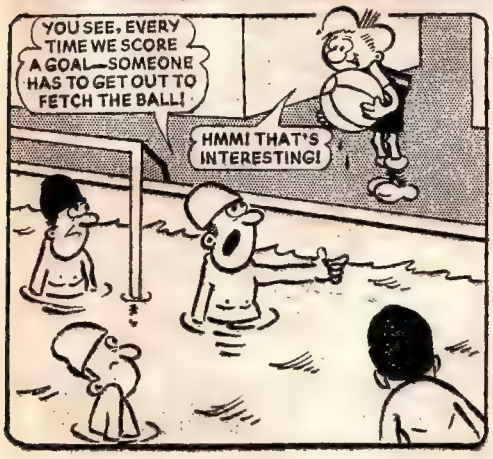


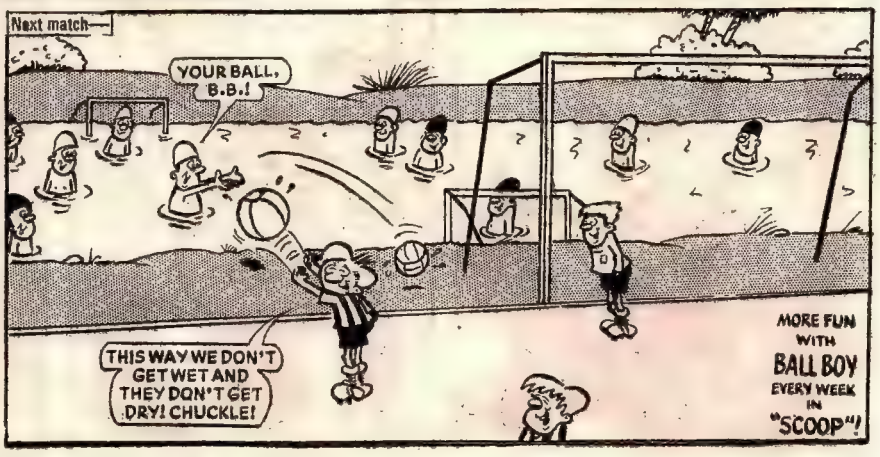



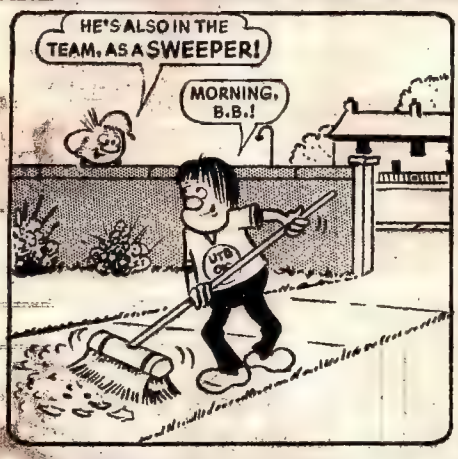



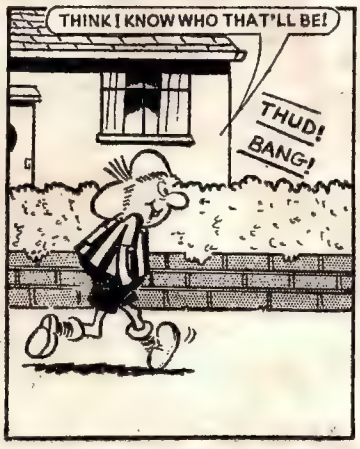



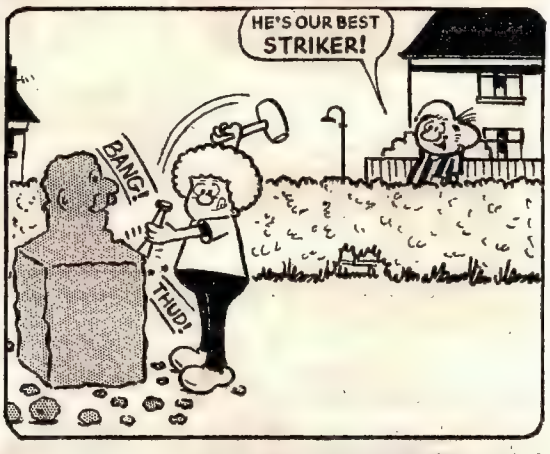



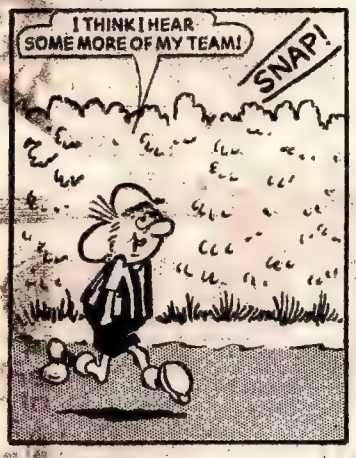

MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!

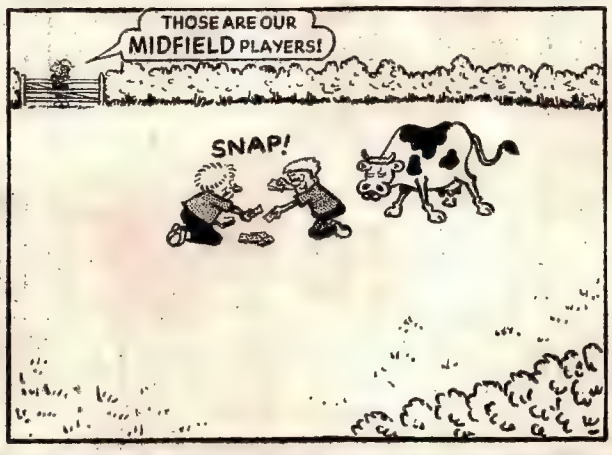
# BALL BOY



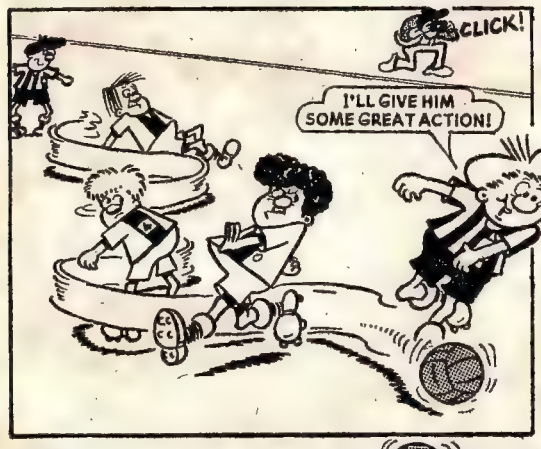
Later—

# BALL BOY

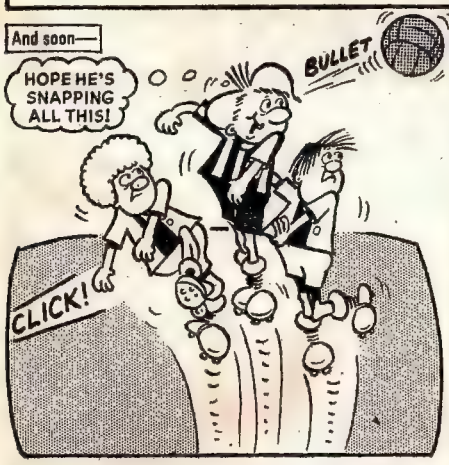
HEY, KID!
COO! A PHOTOGRAPHER!

I'M FROM "THE MORNING POST". YOU'RE THE BALL BOY, AREN'T YOU?
THAT'S ME!

GOOD! I WANT SOME ACTION SHOTS OF YOU FOR MY PAPER.
GOSH! FAME AT LAST!


CLICK!
I'LL GIVE HIM SOME GREAT ACTION!

CLICK!
GOAL!
BOOMPH!


And soon—
HOPE HE'S SNAPPING ALL THIS!
BULLET
CLICK!

Then—
THAT'S ENOUGH—WE'LL PICK THE BEST PHOTO—THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

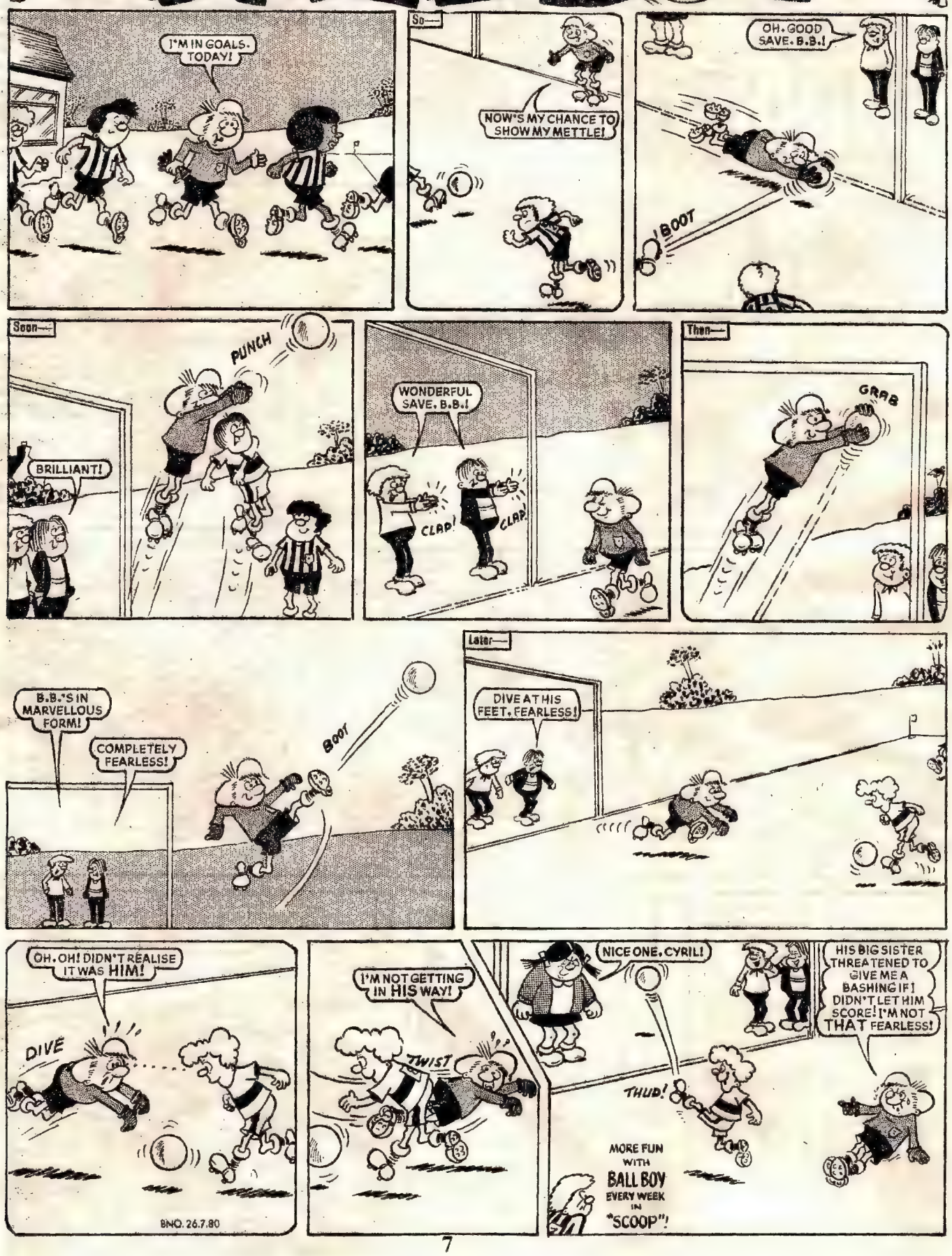
GOSH! A PICTURE OF ME IN "THE MORNING POST"! I CAN HARDLY WAIT!
ALL STARRY-EYED

Next morning—
GREAT! I'VE BEEN UP TWO HOURS WAITING FOR THE PAPER TO ARRIVE!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!
BNO. 12.7.80

But—
WAAAH!
WHAT'S UP? ISN'T THE PHOTO LIKE YOU?
MORNING POST

I'M NOT EVEN THERE!
GREAT NEW "SPOT-THE-BALL BOY" CONTEST
PUT A CROSS WHERE YOU THINK HE SHOULD BE
RULES

# BALL BOY


I'M IN GOALS. TODAY!
So—
NOW'S MY CHANCE TO SHOW MY METTLE!
OH. GOOD SAVE. B.B.!
BOOT
Soon—
PUNCH
BRILLIANT!
WONDERFUL SAVE. B.B.!
CLAP!
CLAP!
Then—
GRAB
B.B.'S IN MARVELLOUS FORM!
COMPLETELY FEARLESS!
BOOT
Later—
DIVE AT HIS FEET. FEARLESS!
OH. OH! DIDN'T REALISE IT WAS HIM!
DIVE
BNO. 26.7.80
I'M NOT GETTING IN HIS WAY!
TWIST
NICE ONE. CYRIL!
THUD!
HIS BIG SISTER THREATENED TO GIVE ME A BASHING IF I DIDN'T LET HIM SCORE! I'M NOT THAT FEARLESS!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!

# BALL BOY

At an away match—

GREAT! THAT PUTS US 2-0 UP, WITH ONLY TEN MINUTES TO GO!

GOAL!

But soon—

OUCH!

SLIGHT TAP!

OOOH! MY LEG! CAN'T WALK!

HOP OFF AND GET IT SEEN TO, THEN!

Then—

HEY! BE CAREFUL, BENJY, OR YOU'LL BE . . .

. . . SENT OFF FOR WASTING TIME AT THE FREE-KICK! HUH! ONLY NINE MEN LEFT!

Soon—

OH, NO! EDDIE'S SHORTS HAVE SPLIT!

RIP!

WE'VE NO SPARE SHORTS! ONLY EIGHT MEN LEFT!

PULL

BNO. 2.8.80

TRIPPING AN OPPONENT! OFF!

SEVEN!

ONLY SIX LEFT! OUR GOALIE'S HURT A FINGER!

THE KEEPER

Not long after—

GULP! NOW I'M ON MY OWN!

Full time—

WE LOST 36-2! HOW COME YOU ALL LEFT THE FIELD?

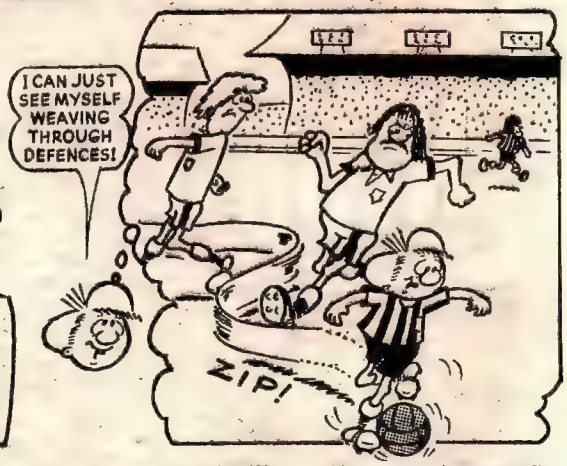
WELL, YOU SEE, B.B. . . .

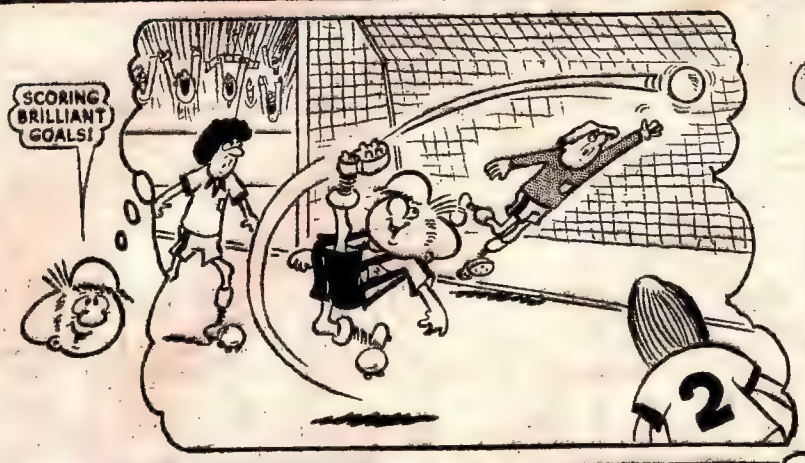
. . . THE BATH HERE ONLY HOLDS ONE AT A TIME—NO-ONE WANTED TO BE KEPT WAITING!

# BALL BOY

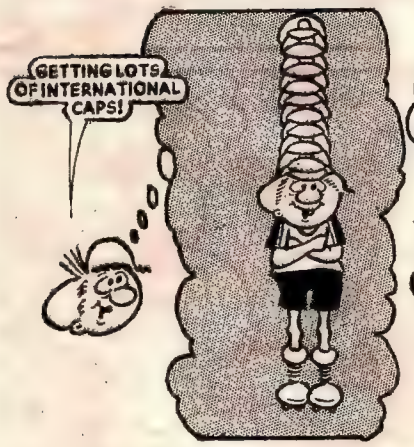
HEY! IT'S KEVIN KNEEGAN, THE BEANOTOWN UNITED CAPTAIN!

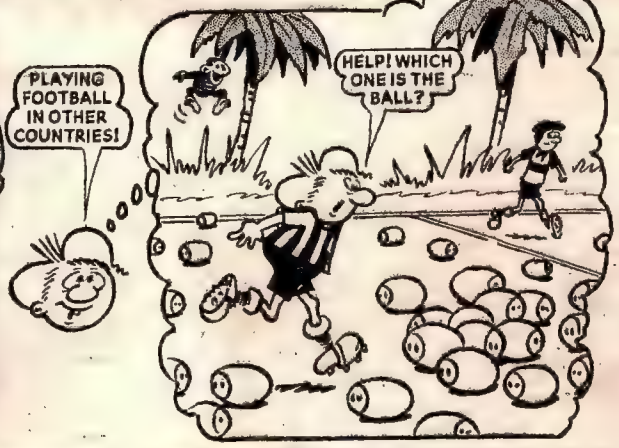
HELLO, B.B.! OUR MANAGER WANTS YOU TO SIGN FOR HIM!
WOW! I WILL!


I CAN JUST SEE MYSELF WEAVING THROUGH DEFENCES!
ZIP!


SCORING BRILLIANT GOALS!
2

WINNING THE F.A. CUP!
F.A. CUP
F.A. SAUCER


GETTING LOTS OF INTERNATIONAL CAPS!

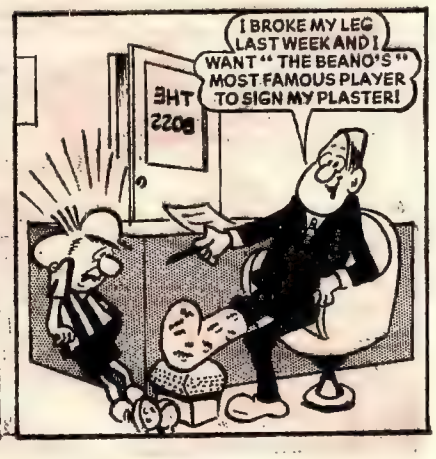

PLAYING FOOTBALL IN OTHER COUNTRIES!
HELP! WHICH ONE IS THE BALL?

BEING INTERVIEWED!
I THOUGHT MY FOURTH GOAL WAS THE BEST!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!

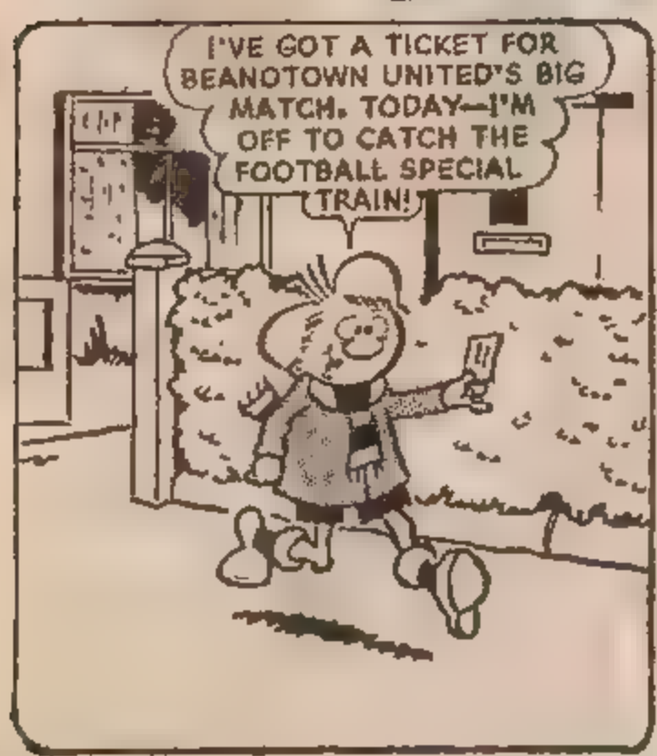
I MIGHT EVEN BECOME SIR BALL BOY!

ANYWAY, I'LL SOON FIND OUT!

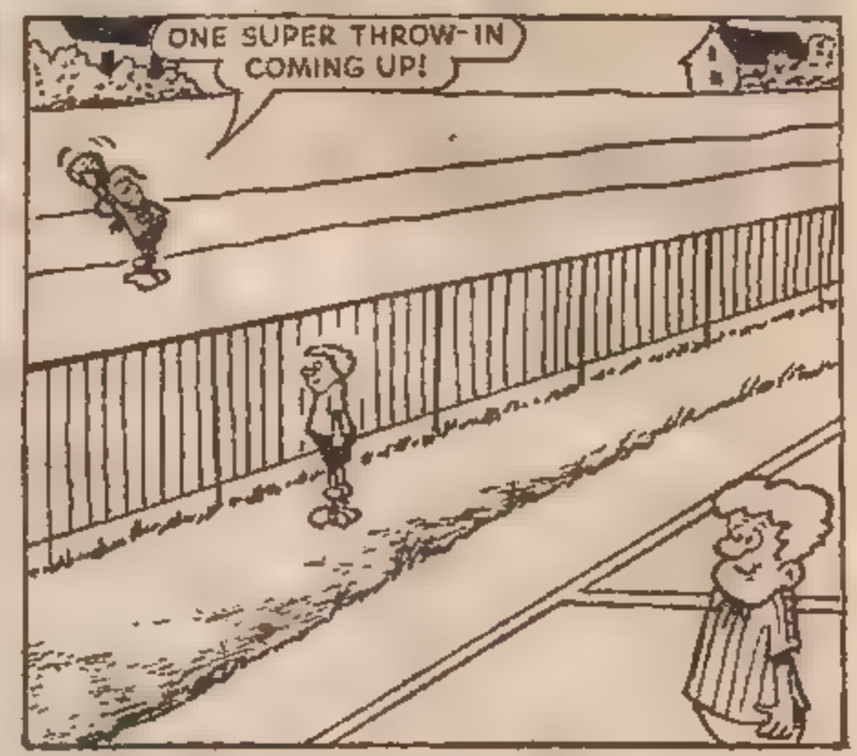
HELLO, BALL BOY! COME TO SIGN FOR ME, HAVE YOU?
YES, MR MANAGER...

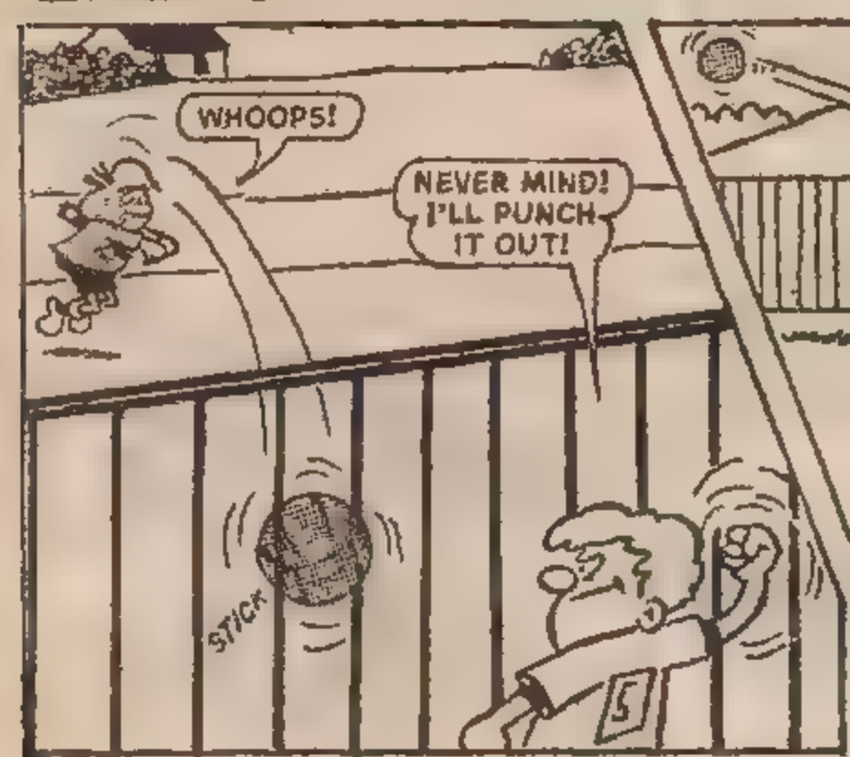

I BROKE MY LEG LAST WEEK AND I WANT "THE BEANO'S" MOST FAMOUS PLAYER TO SIGN MY PLASTER!

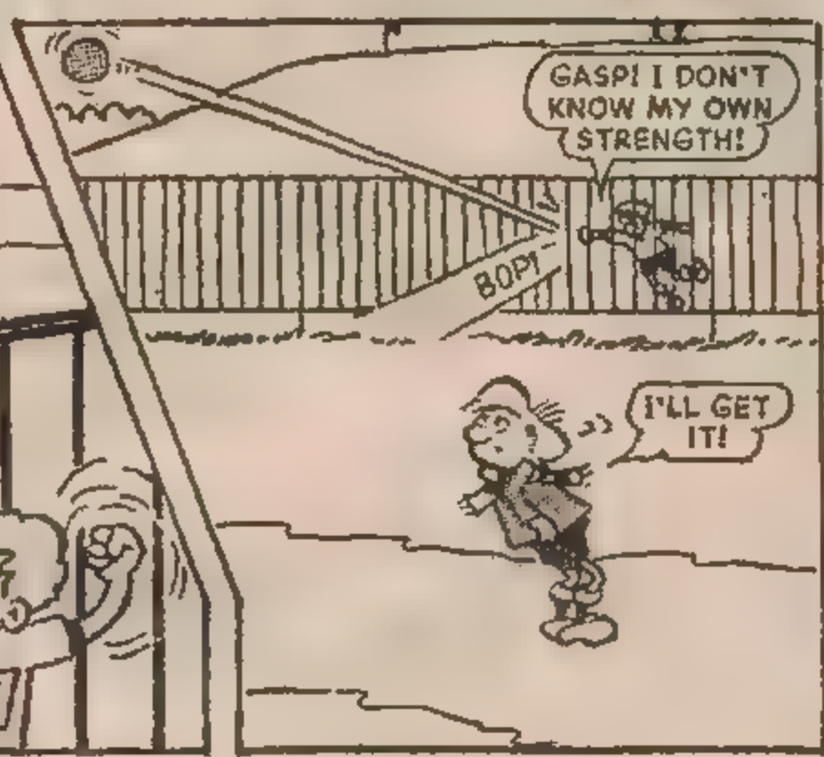
# BALL BOY

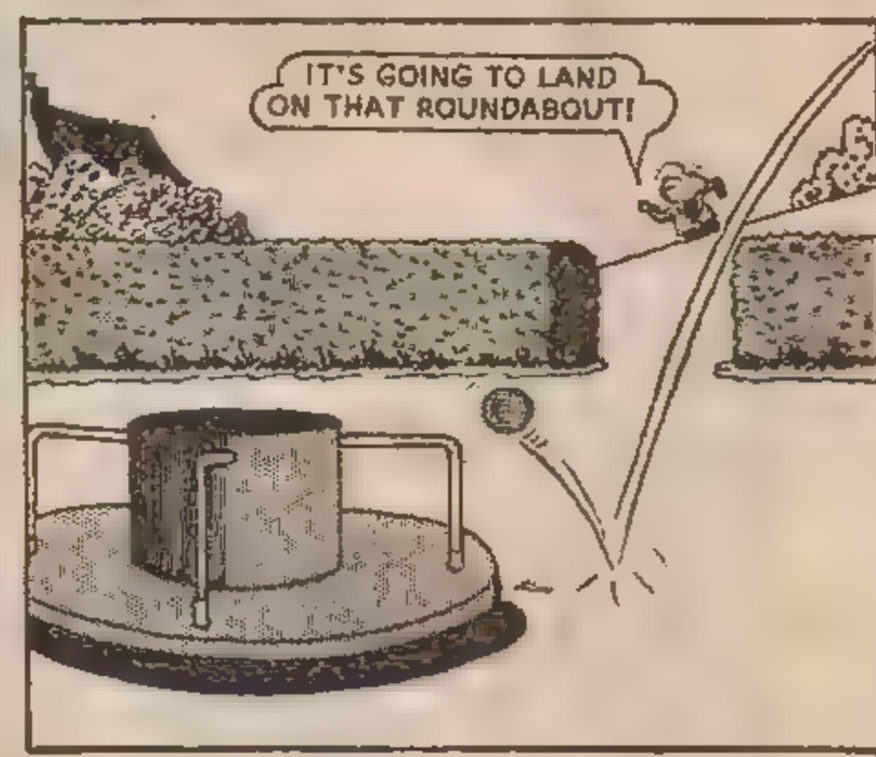

I'VE GOT A TICKET FOR BEANOTOWN UNITED'S BIG MATCH. TODAY—I'M OFF TO CATCH THE FOOTBALL SPECIAL TRAIN!

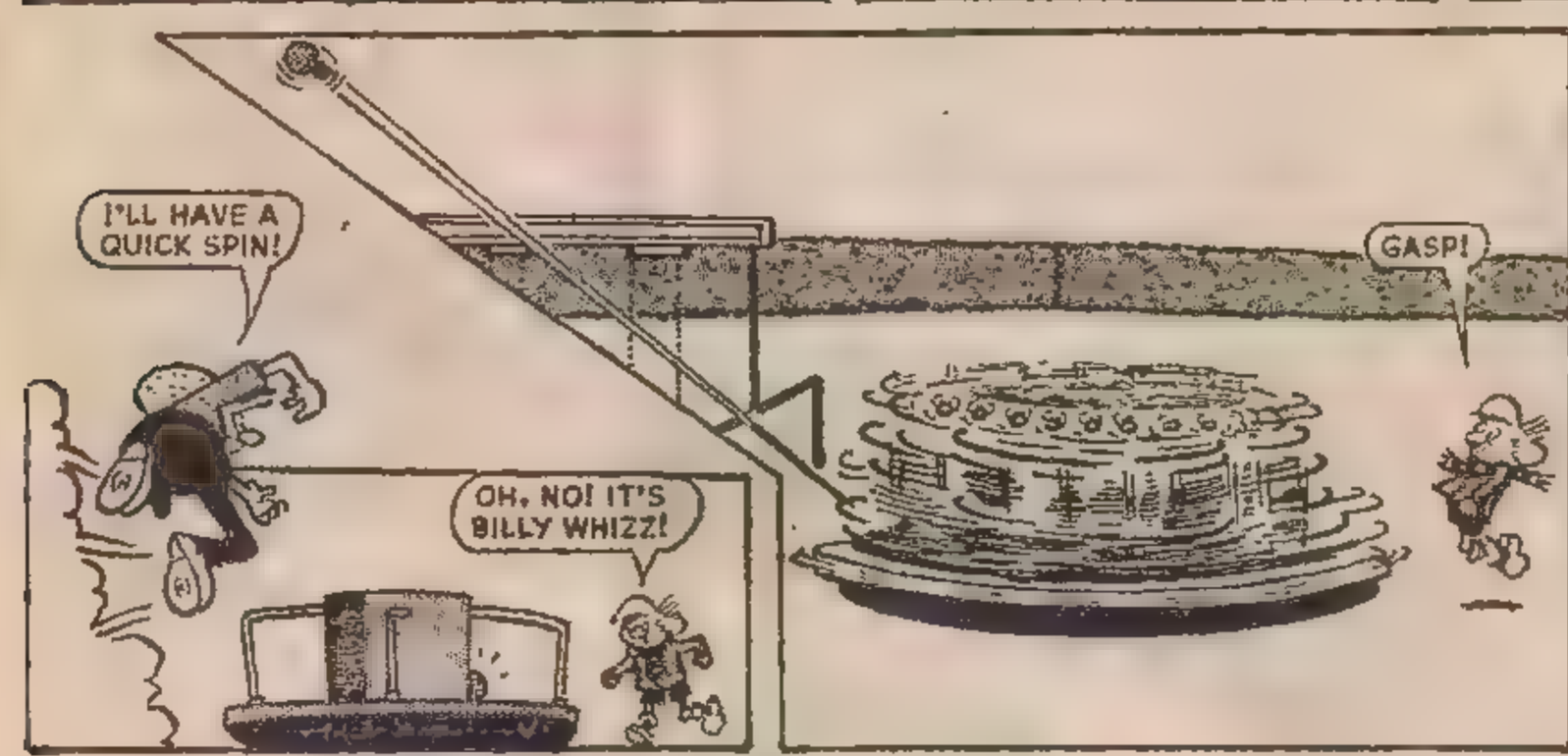
THROW OUR BALL BACK, B.B.!

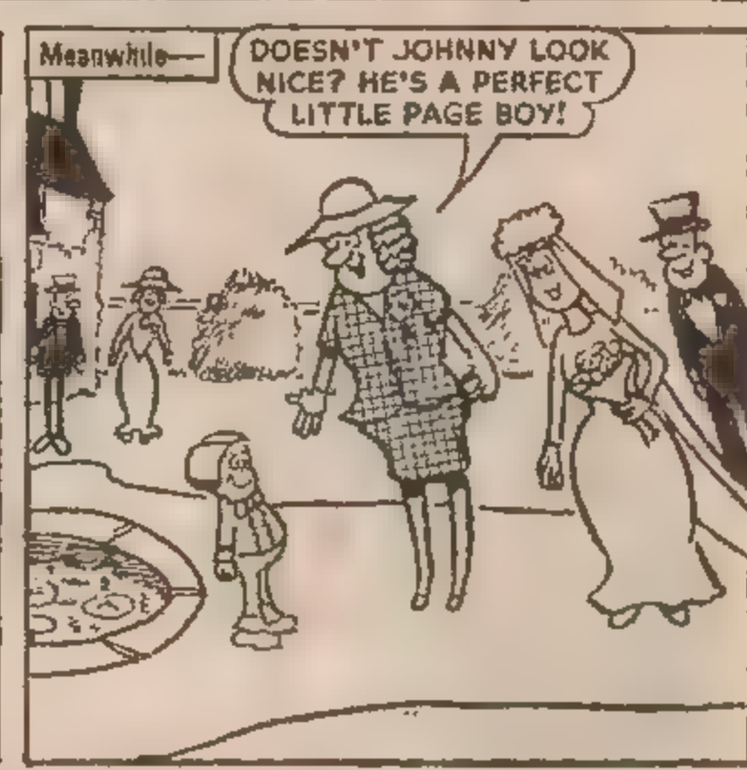

ONE SUPER THROW-IN COMING UP!

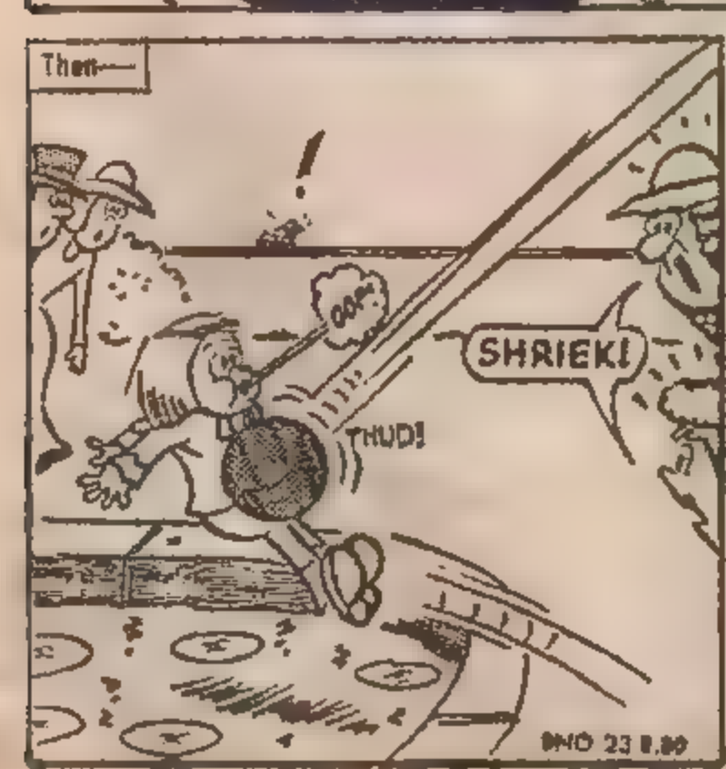

WHOOPS!
NEVER MIND! I'LL PUNCH IT OUT!
STICK


GASP! I DON'T KNOW MY OWN STRENGTH!
BOPP
I'LL GET IT!

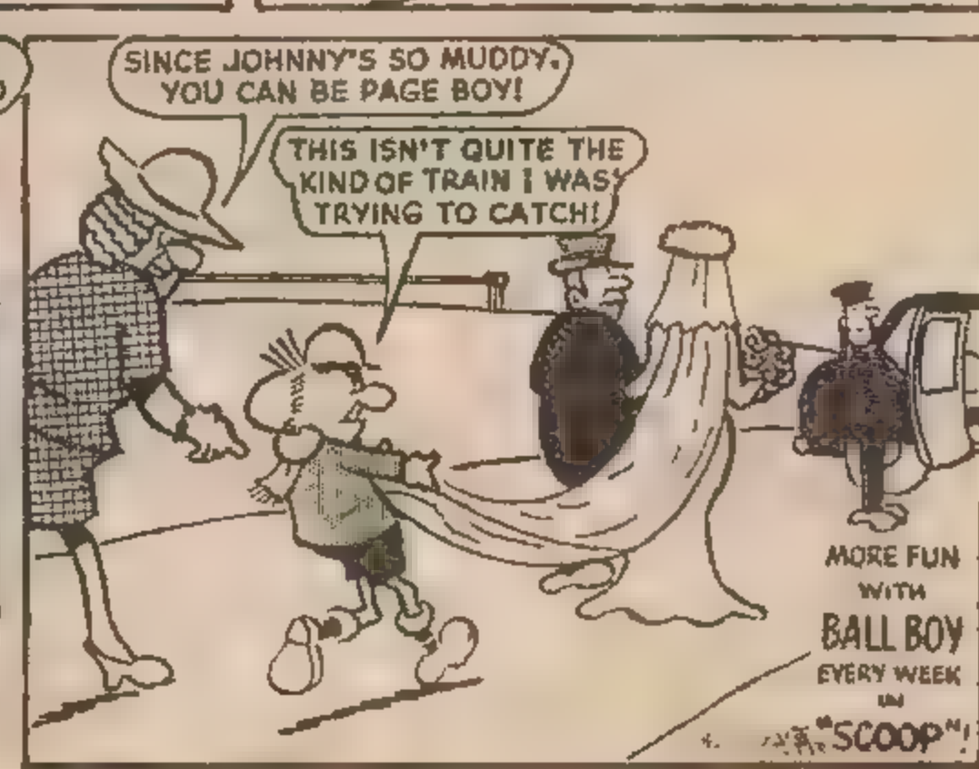

IT'S GOING TO LAND ON THAT ROUNDABOUT!


I'LL HAVE A QUICK SPIN!
OH, NO! IT'S BILLY WHIZZ!
GASP!


Meanwhile—
DOESN'T JOHNNY LOOK NICE? HE'S A PERFECT LITTLE PAGE BOY!

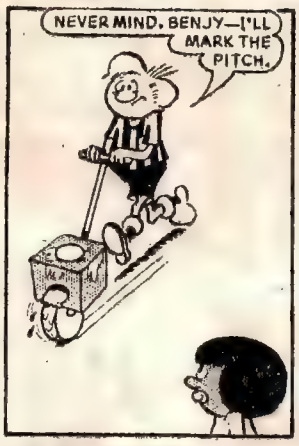

Then—
SHRIEK!
THUD!

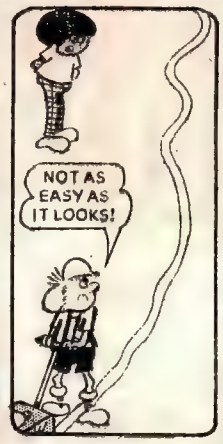
CAN I HAVE THE BALL BACK? I'VE A TRAIN TO CATCH!
NO—I'VE A JOB FOR YOU!

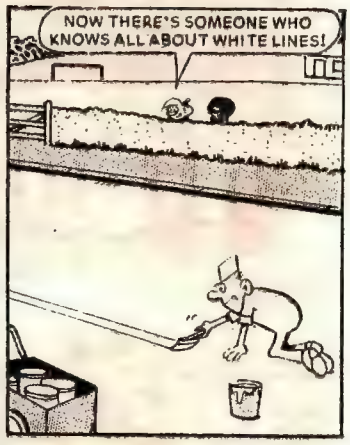

SINCE JOHNNY'S SO MUDDY, YOU CAN BE PAGE BOY!
THIS ISN'T QUITE THE KIND OF TRAIN I WAS TRYING TO CATCH!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"!

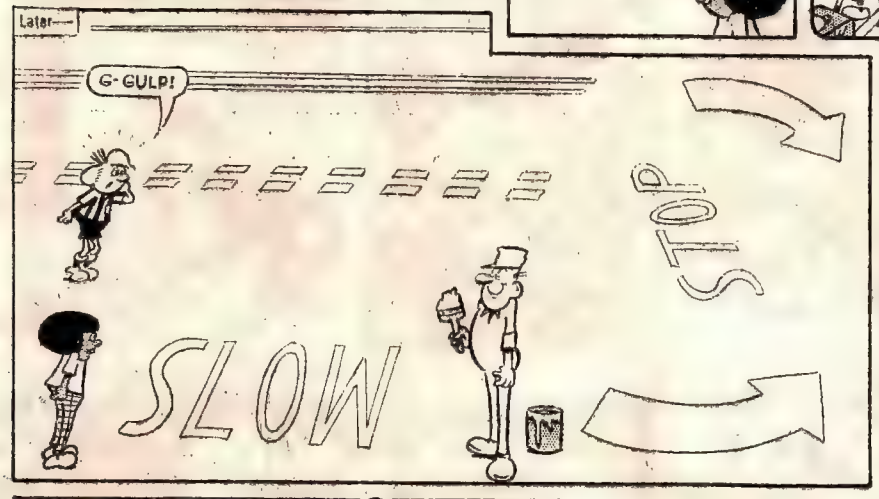
# BALL BOY

WE CAN'T PLAY TODAY, B.B.—THE GROUNDSMAN'S ILL, AND HE HASN'T PAINTED ANY LINES.
HMM!


NEVER MIND, BENJY—I'LL MARK THE PITCH.


NOT AS EASY AS IT LOOKS!

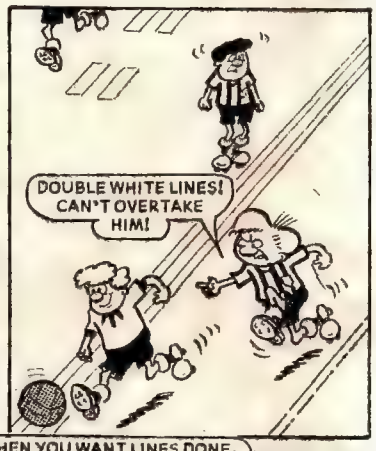

NOW THERE'S SOMEONE WHO KNOWS ALL ABOUT WHITE LINES!


Later—
G-GULP!
SLOW
STOP

The game begins—
WHAT A CHANCE!
MUST BE A GOAL!

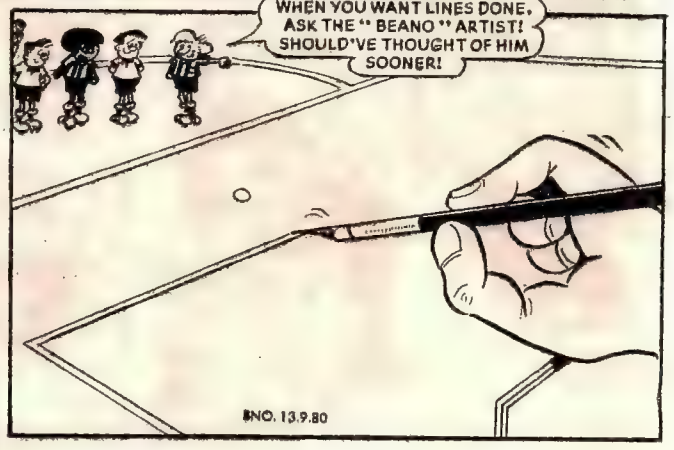
ERK! LUCKY I'VE GOT GOOD BRAKES!
BAH!
STOP

GET IN FRONT OF HIM, B.B.! BLOCK HIM!


DOUBLE WHITE LINES! CAN'T OVERTAKE HIM!

THIS IS HOPELESS, B.B.!
YES!
STOP

LET'S WASH THESE LINES OUT, BOYS! I'VE AN IDEA!


WHEN YOU WANT LINES DONE, ASK THE "BEANO" ARTIST! SHOULD'VE THOUGHT OF HIM SOONER!
BNO. 13.9.80

# BALL BOY

WE ARE HERE TO VOTE FOR "THE PLAYER OF THE YEAR"! WRITE DOWN YOUR VOTE AND PUT THE SLIPS OF PAPER IN MY DAD'S HAT.

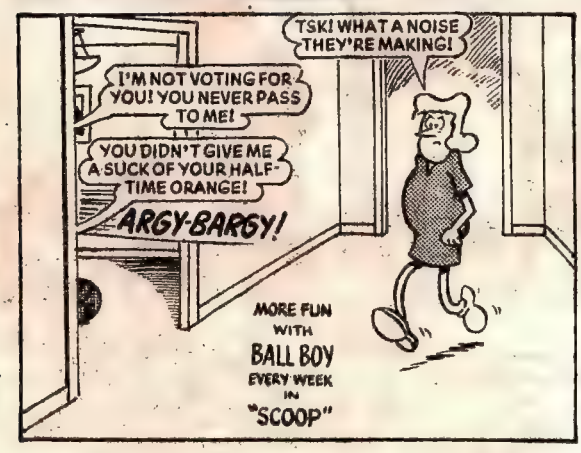
NOW FOR THE DRAW!

WHAT EXCITEMENT! THE FIRST VOTE IS FOR . . .

. . . D. TORRIE! EH? HE DOESN'T PLAY FOR US!
THAT'S THE NAME OF THE HATMAKER! YOU'VE PULLED OUT THE MAKER'S LABEL!

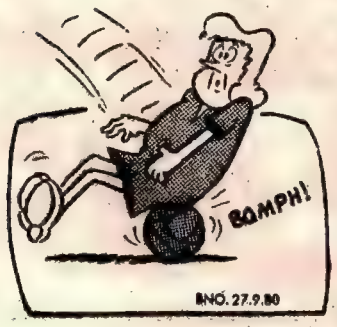
AHEM! HERE WE GO THEN— A VOTE FOR BENJY, A VOTE FOR TOMMY, ONE FOR ME, ONE FOR JIMMY . . .

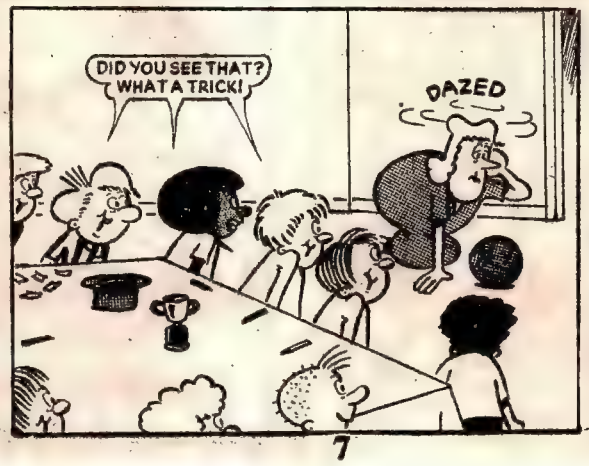
Soon—
WE'VE ALL GOT ONE VOTE! YOU ALL VOTED FOR YOURSELVES!
SO DID YOU!
SO DID YOU!
SO DID YOU!


TSK! WHAT A NOISE THEY'RE MAKING!
I'M NOT VOTING FOR YOU! YOU NEVER PASS TO ME!
YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME A SUCK OF YOUR HALF-TIME ORANGE!
ARGY-BARGY!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"

SLIP

BOUNCE


BOMPH!
BNO. 27.9.80


DID YOU SEE THAT? WHAT A TRICK!
DAZED

ACCEPT THIS TROPHY! YOU DESERVE IT!
?

# BALL BOY

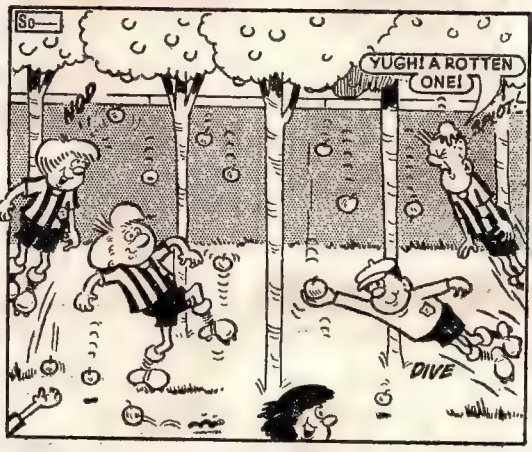
PHEW! THAT WAS A TOUGH FIRST HALF!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE HALF-TIME ORANGES.

EMPTY! SOMEONE'S PINCHED OUR ORANGES!
AW—WE NEED TO BE REFRESHED!

NOT TO WORRY—FOLLOW ME . . .
BOUNCE

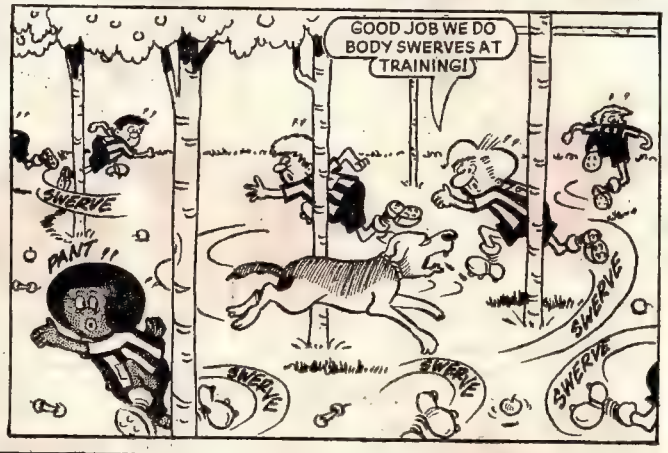
WE'LL HAVE HALF-TIME APPLES INSTEAD!
ORCHARD

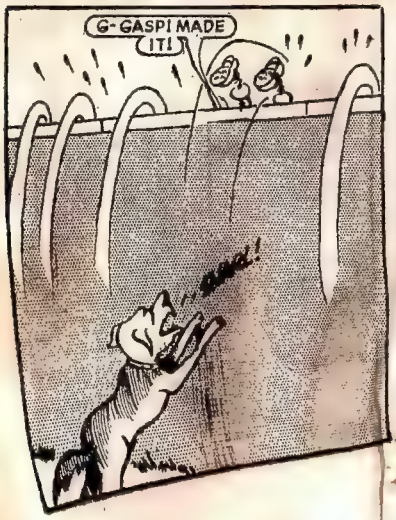
THIS'LL BRING THEM DOWN!
BOOT!

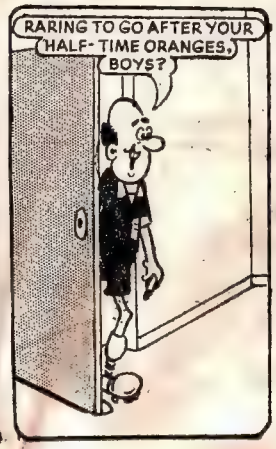

YUGH! A ROTTEN ONE!
HUD
SMOT
DIVE

SLOO! NICE AND REFRESHING!
CRUNCH!

GRUFF!
A GUARD DOG—RUN!


GOOD JOB WE DO BODY SWERVES AT TRAINING!
SWERVE
PANT
SWERVE
SWERVE
SWERVE
SWERVE


G-GASP! MADE IT!
GASP!


RARING TO GO AFTER YOUR HALF-TIME ORANGES, BOYS?

NO—WE'RE WORN OUT AFTER OUR HALF-TIME APPLES! GASP!
BNO. 4.10.80

# BALL BOY

WHAT A BORING GOALLESS DRAW! WE USED TO SCORE MORE GOALS IN THE OLDEN DAYS!

MAYBE HE'S RIGHT. HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO...

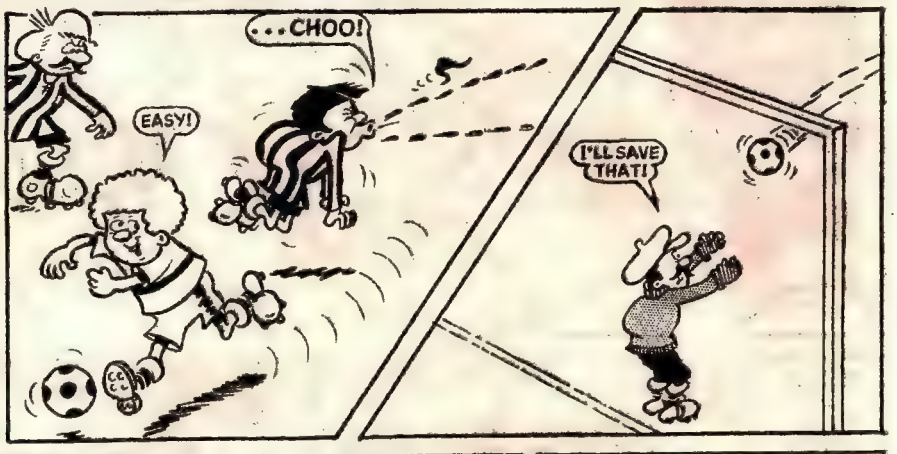
WE'LL SEE IF THE OLD FASHIONED APPROACH WORKS!
GRANDAD'S OLD FOOTBALL BOOTS
CLUMP!
CLUMP!
CLUMP!

The game begins—
I'LL TACKLE HIM, B.B.!

LEAVE IT TO ME!
OOPS! GOT MY LEGS TANGLED IN THIS LONG JERSEY!

WAAH! THOSE BOOTS ARE FAR TOO BIG!

Then—
THIS MOUSTACHE TICKLES—AAA...


...CHOO!
EASY!
I'LL SAVE THAT!

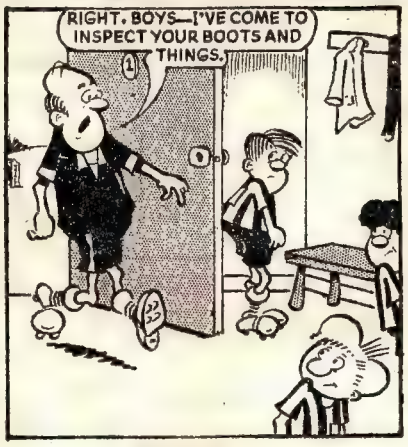
OOH! IT'S GONE DARK EARLY, AND WE'VE NO FLOODLIGHTS!
FLOP!

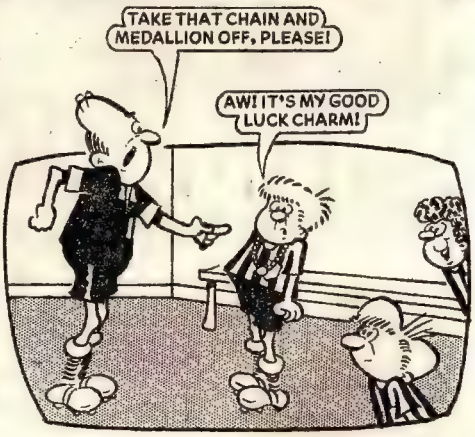
WHERE DID THE BALL GO?
INTO OUR GOALS—THAT'S WHERE IT WENT!
BNO. 18.10.80

Later—
THERE WERE MORE GOALS IN OLD TIME FOOTBALL—WE LOST 37-0!
PLAYING FIELDS

# BALL BOY

WON'T BE AN EASY GAME, THIS.


RIGHT, BOYS—I'VE COME TO INSPECT YOUR BOOTS AND THINGS.


TAKE THAT CHAIN AND MEDALLION OFF, PLEASE!
AW! IT'S MY GOOD LUCK CHARM!

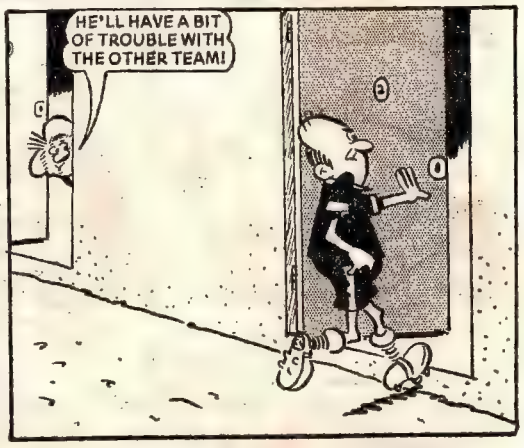
AND I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE LAUGHING, ERIC!
HA, HA! HA? HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME, REF?

IT'S ON YOUR IDENTITY BRACELET! TAKE IT OFF!

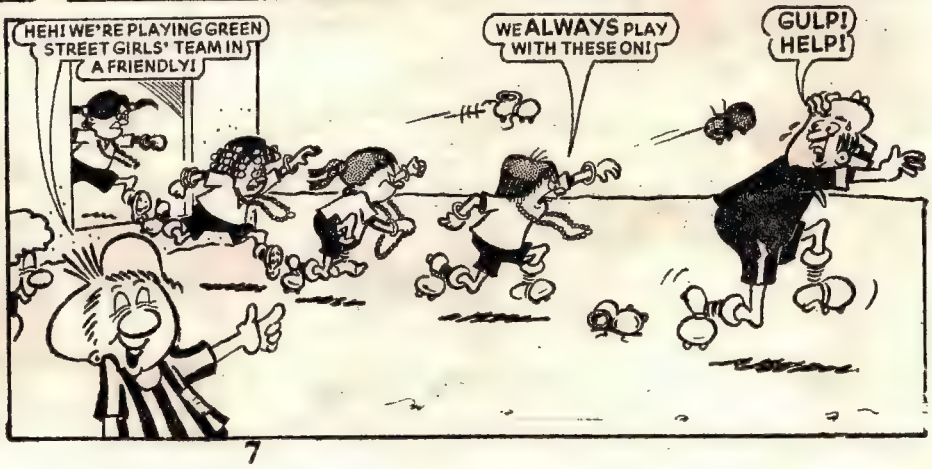
AND YOU...

...I KNOW EAR-RINGS ARE THE LATEST FASHION, BUT YOU CAN'T PLAY FOOTBALL WITH THEM.

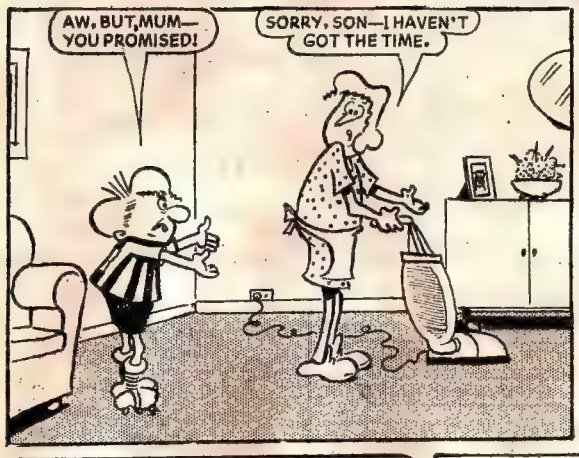
MUTTER! CHAINS, BRACELETS, EAR-RINGS! WHAT ARE FOOTBALLERS COMING TO?


HE'LL HAVE A BIT OF TROUBLE WITH THE OTHER TEAM!

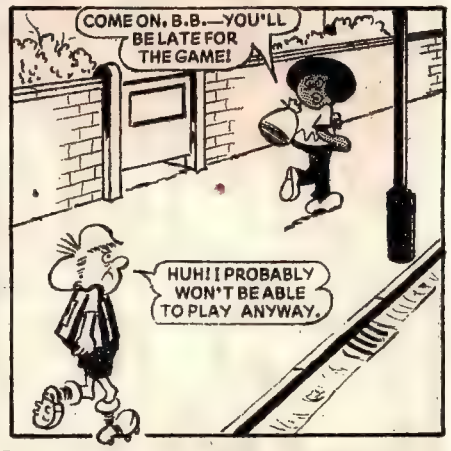
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
HELP!
BNO. 25.10.80


HEH! WE'RE PLAYING GREEN STREET GIRLS' TEAM IN A FRIENDLY!
WE ALWAYS PLAY WITH THESE ON!
GULP! HELP!

# BALL BOY

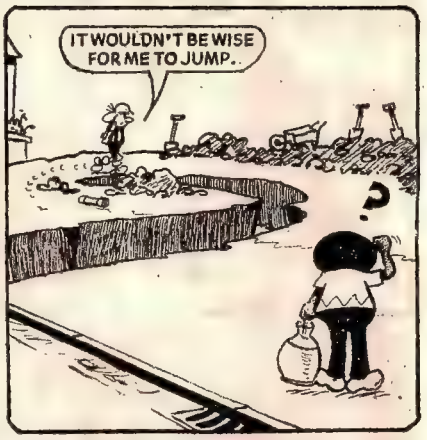

AW, BUT, MUM— YOU PROMISED!
SORRY, SON—I HAVEN'T GOT THE TIME.

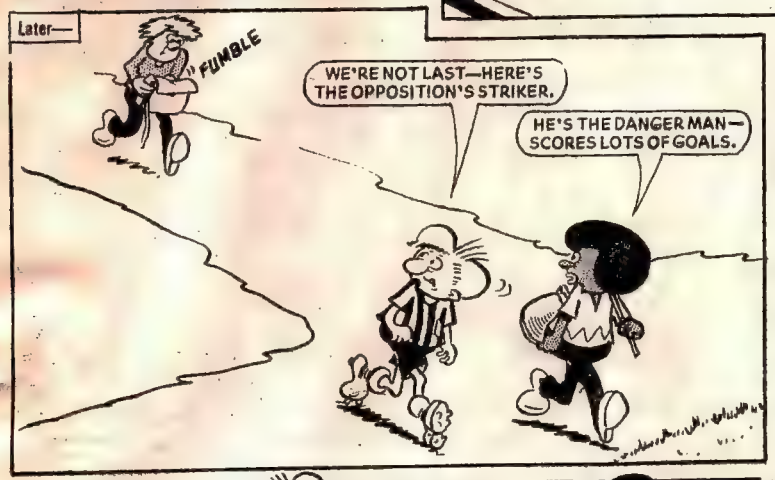
STOP COMPLAINING—I'M BUSY TODAY!
PUSH


COME ON, B.B.—YOU'LL BE LATE FOR THE GAME!
HUH! I PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY ANYWAY.

HURRY, MAN!
LET GO! I DON'T WANT TO RUN.
PULL

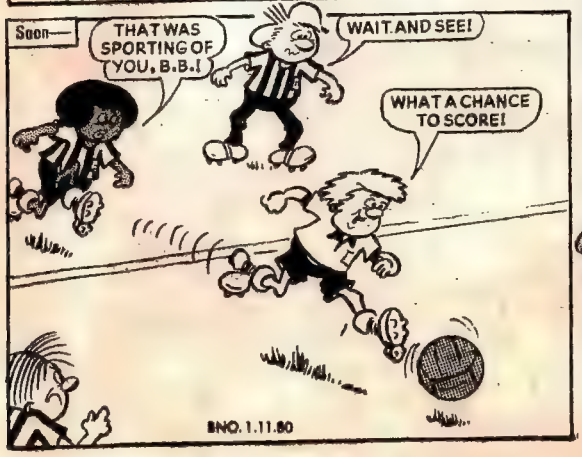
TAKE A SHORTCUT!
NO.
JUMP

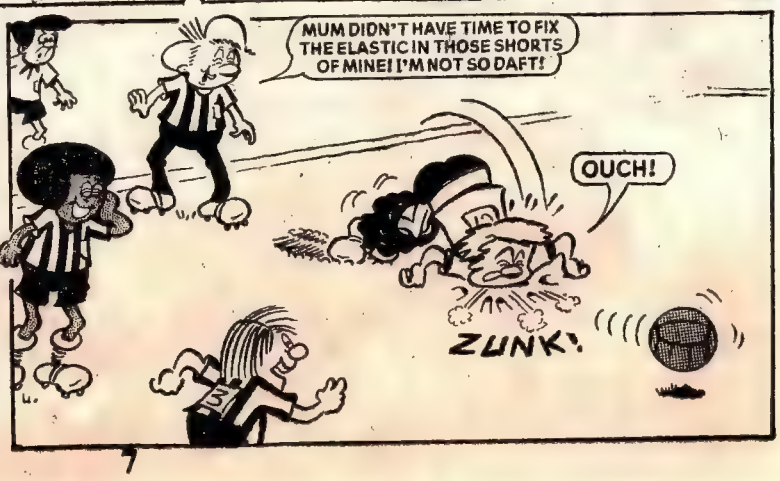

IT WOULDN'T BE WISE FOR ME TO JUMP.
?


Later—
FUMBLE
WE'RE NOT LAST—HERE'S THE OPPOSITION'S STRIKER.
HE'S THE DANGER MAN—SCORES LOTS OF GOALS.

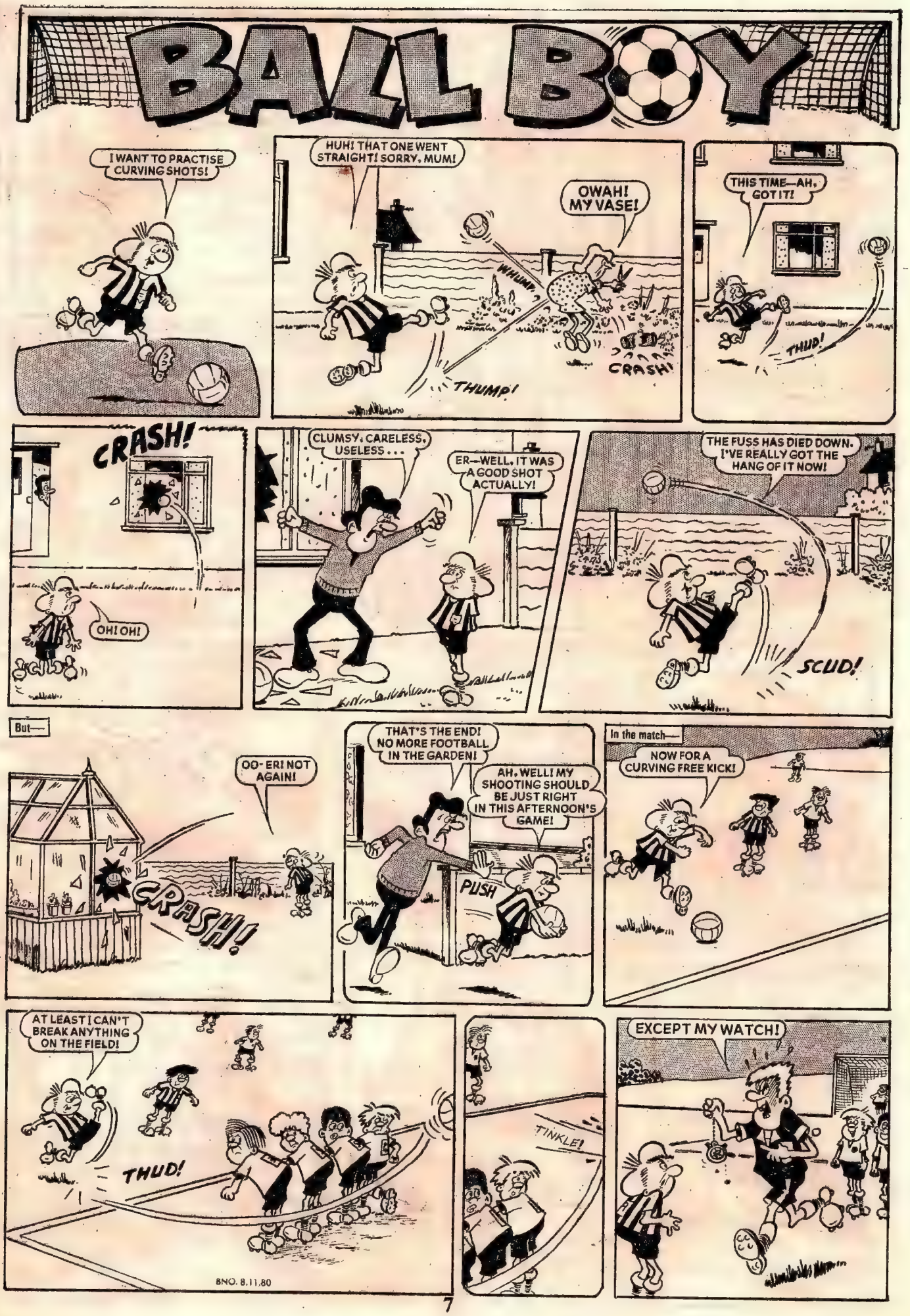
OH, BLOW! I'VE PACKED EVERYTHING EXCEPT MY FOOTBALL SHORTS!

YOU CAN PLAY IN MY SHORTS—I'LL PLAY IN YOUR JEANS.
GOSH, TA!


Soon—
THAT WAS SPORTING OF YOU, B.B.!
WAIT AND SEE!
WHAT A CHANCE TO SCORE!
BNO. 1.11.80

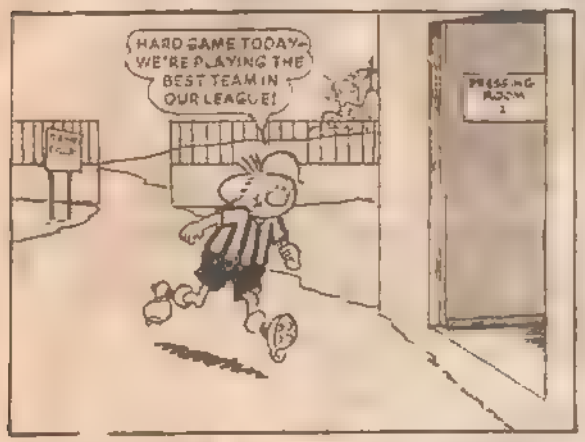

MUM DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO FIX THE ELASTIC IN THOSE SHORTS OF MINE! I'M NOT SO DAFT!
OUCH!
ZUNK!

# BALL BOY

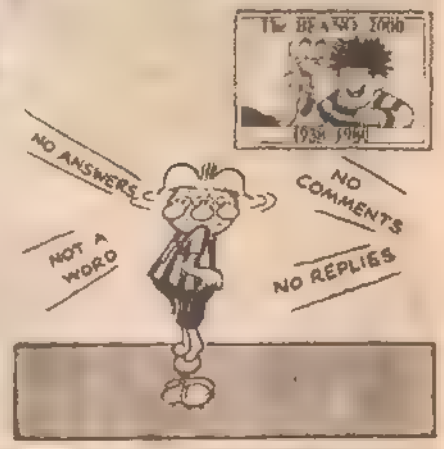


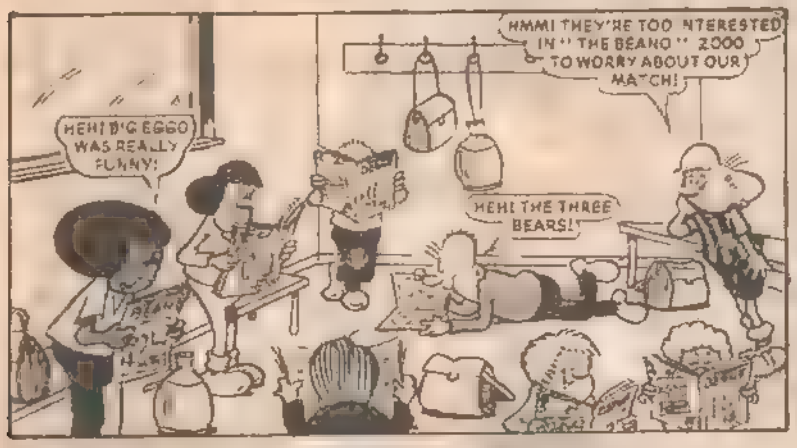

8NO. 8.11.80

# BALL BOY

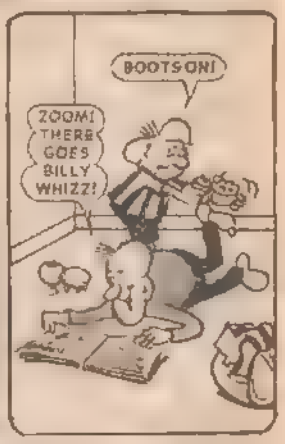

HARD GAME TODAY— WE'RE PLAYING THE BEST TEAM IN OUR LEAGUE!
DRESSING ROOM 2

So—
LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MATCH, BOYS?
DRESSING ROOM 1


NO ANSWERS
NO COMMENTS
NOT A WORD
NO REPLIES


HEH! B'G EGGO WAS REALLY FUNNY!
HMM! THEY'RE TOO INTERESTED IN "THE BEANO" 2000 TO WORRY ABOUT OUR MATCH!
HEH! THE THREE BEARS!

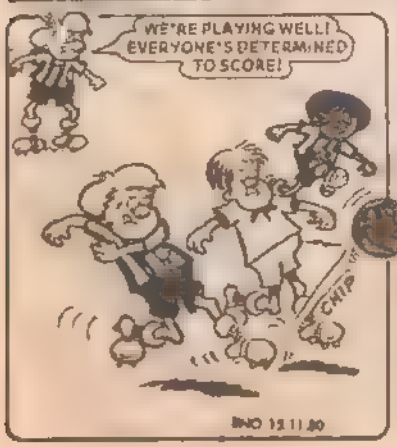
COME ON— GET READY!


BOOTS ON!
ZOOM! THERE GOES BILLY WHIZZ!

I'LL TRY SOMETHING ELSE!

I SEE FROM THE RECORD BOOK, THAT WE'VE SCORED 1,999 GOALS IN THE PAST!
EH?

COME ON! LET'S SCORE GOAL NUMBER 2000!


WE'RE PLAYING WELL! EVERYONE'S DETERMINED TO SCORE!
CHIP
BNO 12.11.80

And—
WHAT A GOAL!
BOOT!

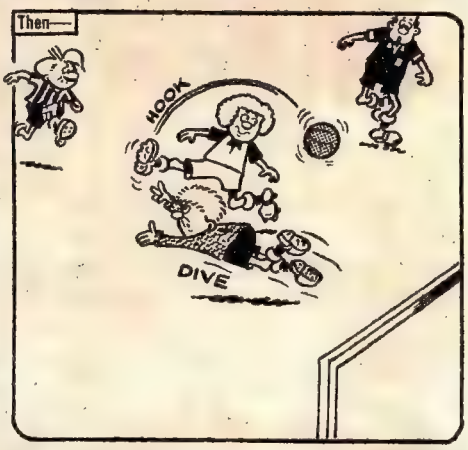
WE'VE BEATEN THE LEAGUE LEADERS!
TIME UP!
ACTUALLY, WE'VE ONLY SCORED 130 GOALS BETWEEN US. NOTHING LIKE 2000! BUT DON'T TELL THEM THAT!

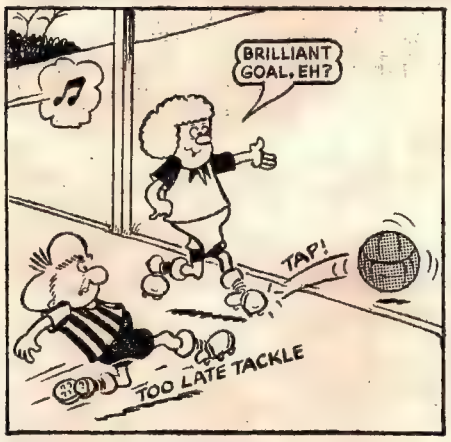
BALL BOY
...16...17...
EEK! LOOK AT THE MESS YOU'VE MADE OF THAT WALL, SON!
EH? OUCH!
ZUNK!
NO MORE OF IT! I'M ALWAYS HAVING TO WASH YOUR WALL!
SORRY, MUM!
When Mum's gone—
JUST A COUPLE OF HEADERS WON'T DO ANY HARM!
...21...22...
HEY!
WHAT? OW!
ZONK!
I WISH PEOPLE WOULDN'T KEEP PUTTING ME OFF, DAD!
I'M ORDERING YOU OFF! NO MORE MARKING THE WALL WITH THAT BALL!
AND YOU CAN WASH THE WALL THIS TIME!
HUH!
I WAS GOING TO BUY A NEW FOOTBALL STRIP, BUT I'VE GOT SOMETHING BETTER TO SPEND MY MONEY ON!
SHAKE SHAKE
And so—
FOUR ROLLS OF THAT PATTERN...
EVERYTHING FOR HOME DECORATING
USE A ROLLER
TARTAN GLOSS
BNO. 22.11.80
Then—
MUM AND DAD WILL NEVER KNOW IF I'VE BEEN HEADERING OR NOT NOW!

# BALL BOY

COO! THE OTHER TEAM'S STRIKER LOOKS GOOD, B.B.!
TAP! TAP!

And—
GASP! HE IS GOOD!
WEAVE


Then—
HOOK
DIVE


BRILLIANT GOAL, EH?
TAP!
TOO LATE TACKLE

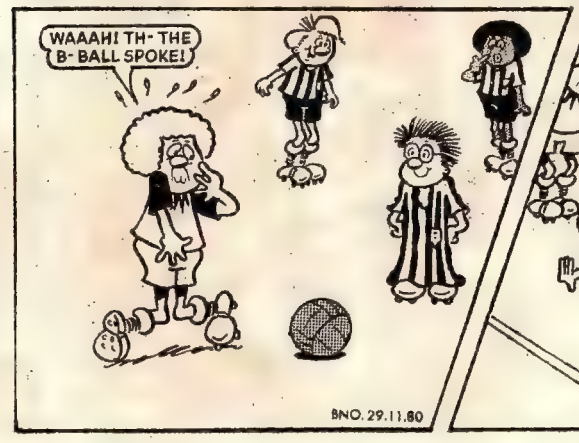
WHAT CONTROL! HE NEARLY MAKES THE BALL TALK!
HMM!

WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO, B.B.?
I'M OFF TO GET A SUBSTITUTE!

Soon—
THE SUBSTITUTE!
DIDN'T KNOW LITTLE CHARLIE COULD PLAY FOOTBALL!

Then—
SWERVE

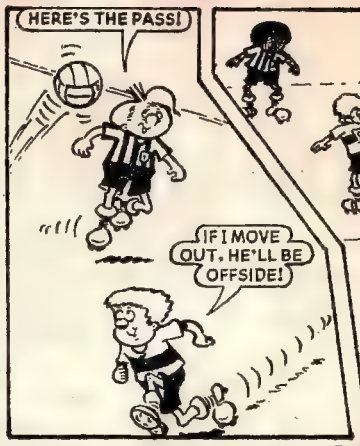
DON'T KICK ME, OR I'LL BOUNCE ALL OVER YOU!
SKID

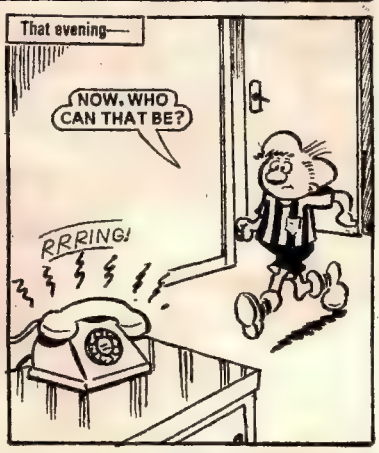

WAAAH! TH- THE B- BALL SPOKE!
BNO. 29.11.80

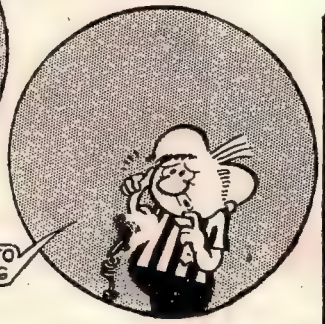
GULP! I'M NOT PLAYING ANYMORE!
GOOD! WE'LL WIN NOW!

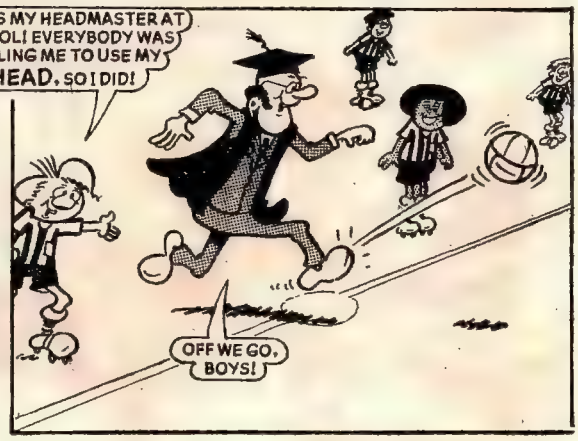
After the game—
CHARLIE'S NO FOOTBALLER, BUT HE CAN THROW HIS VOICE!
THAT'S RIGHT! I CAN MAKE THE BALL TALK!
LIPS HARDLY MOVING

# BALL BOY



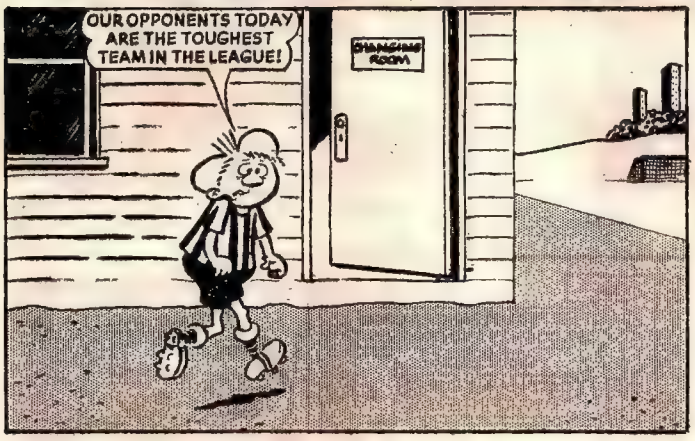


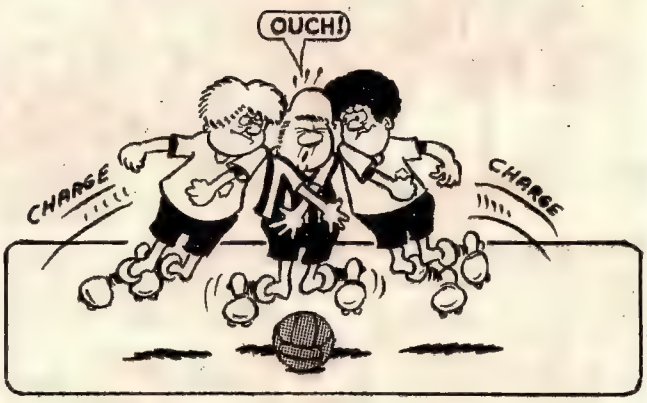


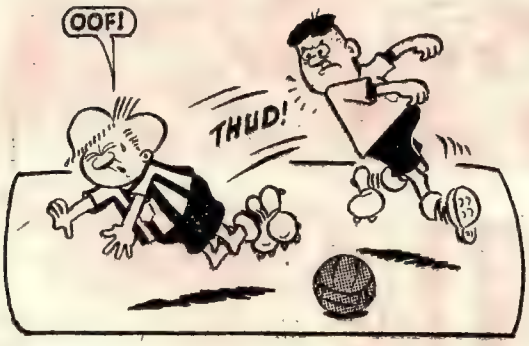


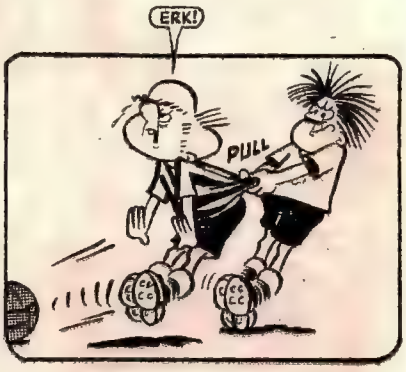

BNO. 6.12.80

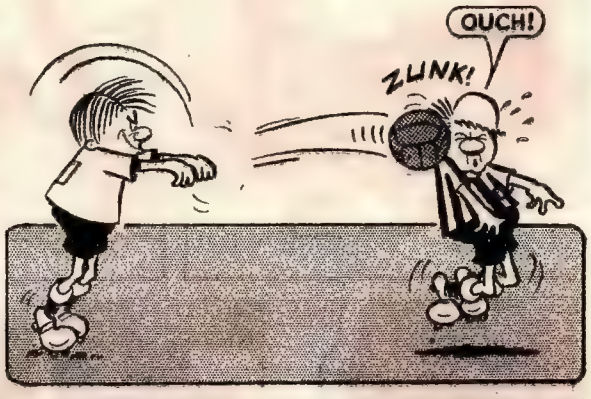
# BALL BOY

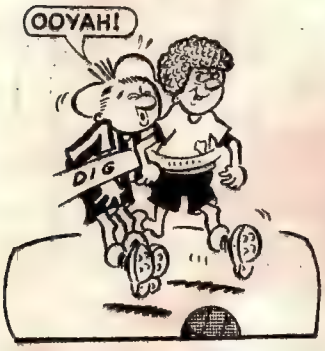


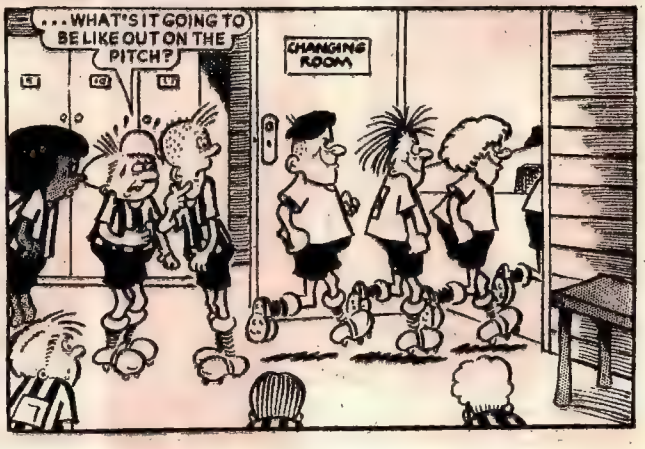










8NO. 13.12.80

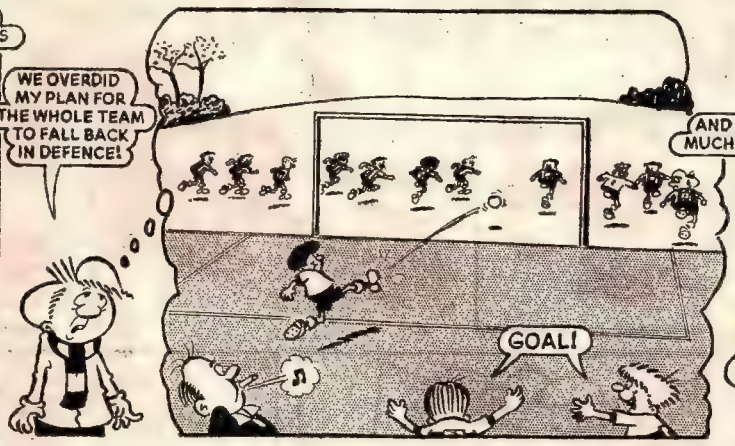
# BALL BOY

LAST GAME BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

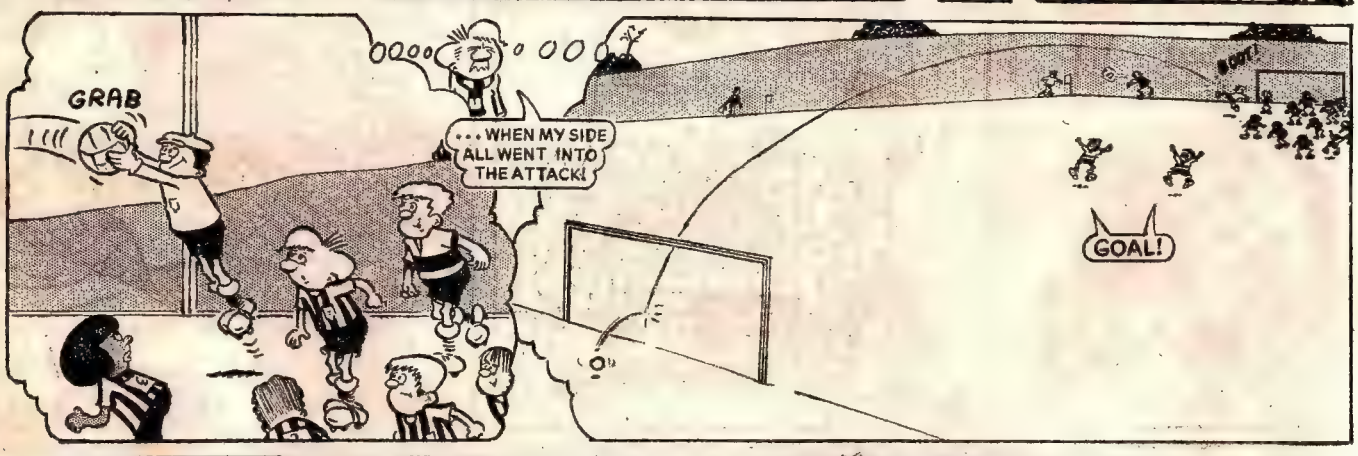
WE'LL GIVE B.B. THE SACK!
WH-WHAT?
B.B

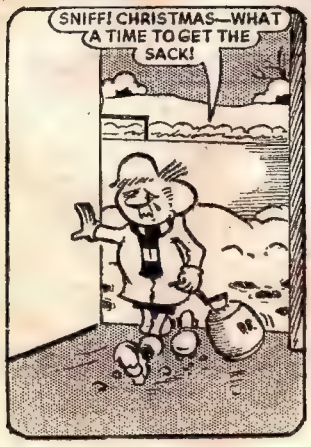
OH, NO! THE WHOLE TEAM'S TURNED AGAINST ME!
B.B

MUST BE BECAUSE SOME OF MY TACTICS DIDN'T WORK!


WE OVERDID MY PLAN FOR THE WHOLE TEAM TO FALL BACK IN DEFENCE!
GOAL!

B.B.'S KEEPER
AND IT WASN'T MUCH BETTER...


GRAB
...WHEN MY SIDE ALL WENT INTO THE ATTACK!
GOAL!


SNIFF! CHRISTMAS—WHAT A TIME TO GET THE SACK!

But—
THE EDITOR GAVE US THESE FOOTBALLS TO DISH OUT TO OTHER "BEANO" CHARACTERS AS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS—YOU'RE JUST THE ONE TO DO IT!
EH?
BNO. 20.12.80

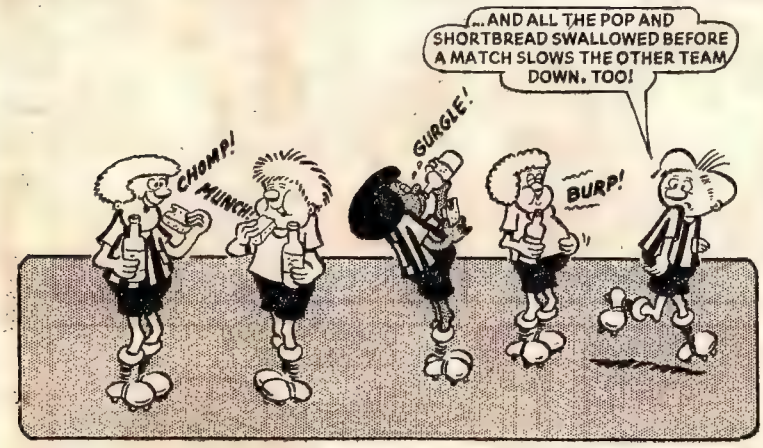
MERRY CHRISTMAS, "BEANO" PALS!
TO PLUG
TO BILLY

# BALL BOY

DRESSING ROOMS
HUH! I DON'T MUCH LIKE THESE NEW YEAR GAMES!

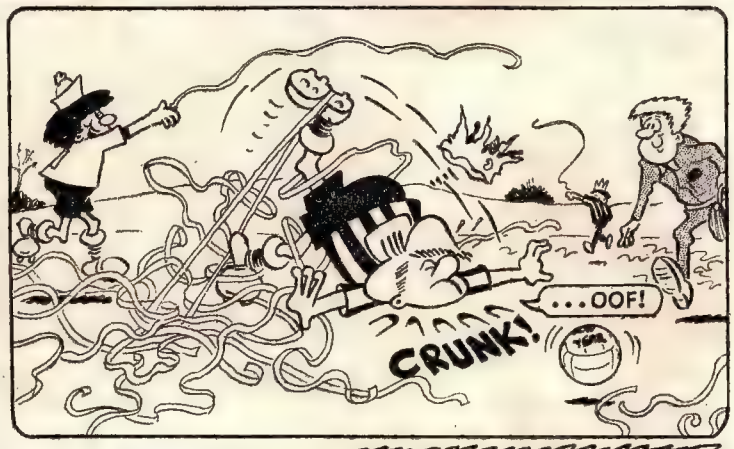
HAPPY NEW YEAR, BALL BOY!
CRUNCH!

I DON'T REALLY MIND ALL THE HEARTY HANDSHAKES . . .


. . . AND ALL THE POP AND SHORTBREAD SWALLOWED BEFORE A MATCH SLOWS THE OTHER TEAM DOWN, TOO!
CHOMP!
MUNCH!
GURGLE!
BURP!

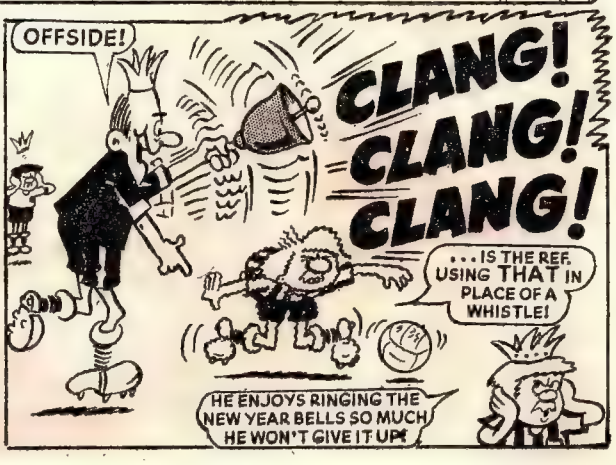
I WON'T COMPLAIN TOO MUCH ABOUT HEADING A BALL WITH A PARTY HAT ON!
CRUMP!
BURP!

THE PARTY STREAMERS GET IN THE WAY A BIT . . .

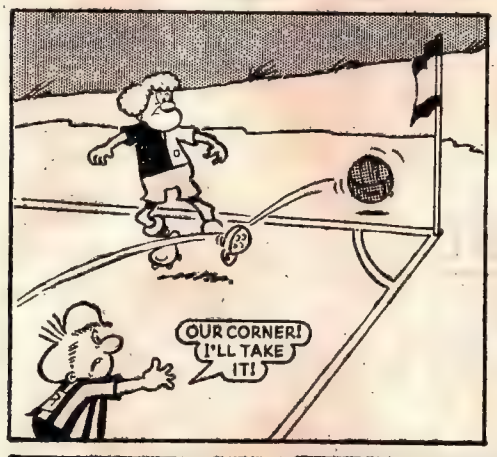

. . . OOF!
CRUNK!

. . . AND THE TRAINER'S BRAND NEW DIARY GETS BORING . . .
WONDER WHAT MY "HELPFUL HINTS" DIARY SAYS ABOUT SORE CHINS?
BNO. 27.12.80

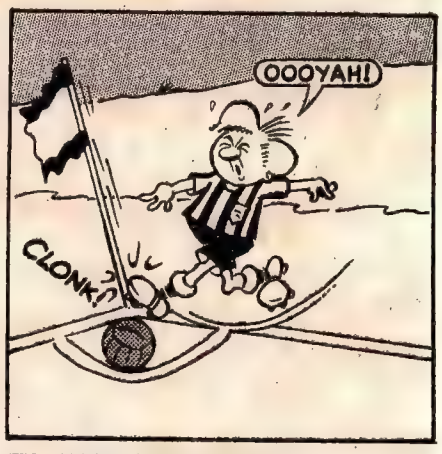
BUT THE THING I REALLY DISLIKE ABOUT NEW YEAR GAMES . . .


OFFSIDE!
CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!
. . . IS THE REF. USING THAT IN PLACE OF A WHISTLE!
HE ENJOYS RINGING THE NEW YEAR BELLS SO MUCH HE WON'T GIVE IT UP!

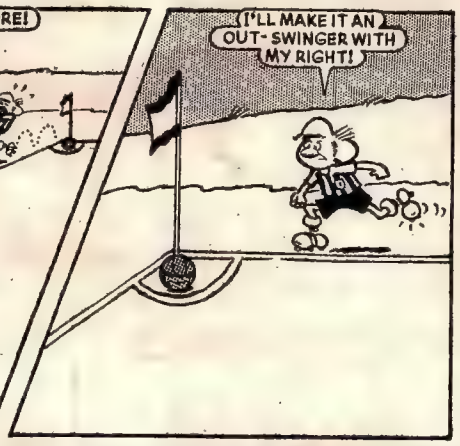
# BALL BOY

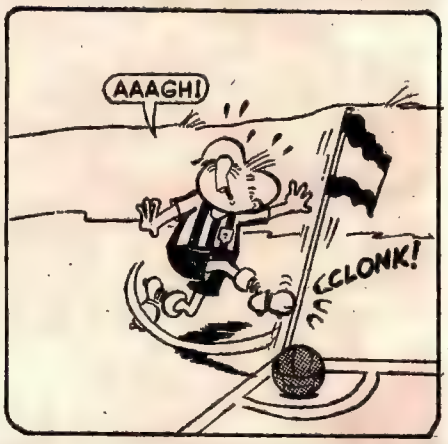

OUR CORNER! I'LL TAKE IT!

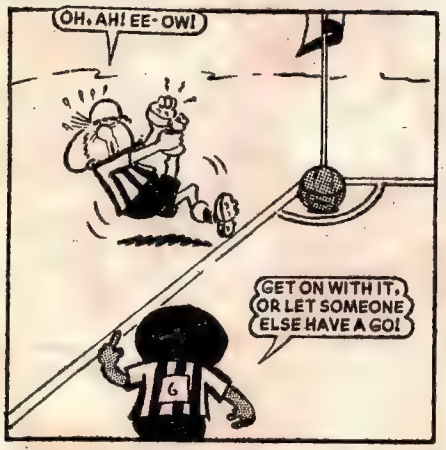
I'LL MAKE IT A LEFT-FOOTED INSWINGER!

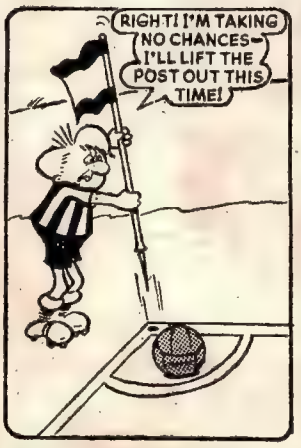

OOOYAH!
CLONK!

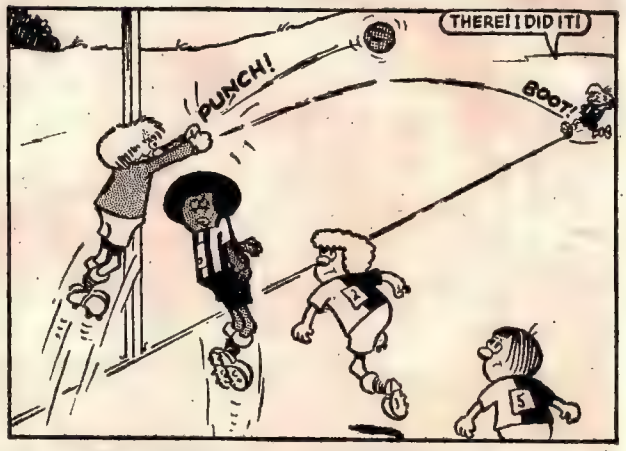
OOH! THAT WAS SORE!
OH, HURRY UP! TRY AGAIN!

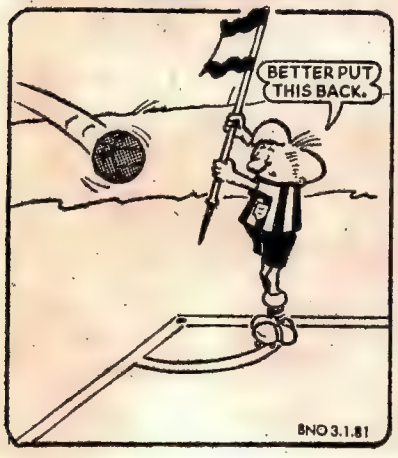

I'LL MAKE IT AN OUT-SWINGER WITH MY RIGHT!

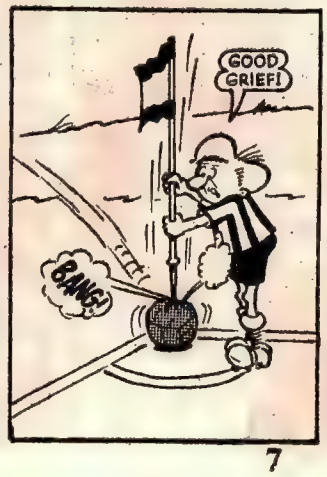

AAAGH!
CLONK!

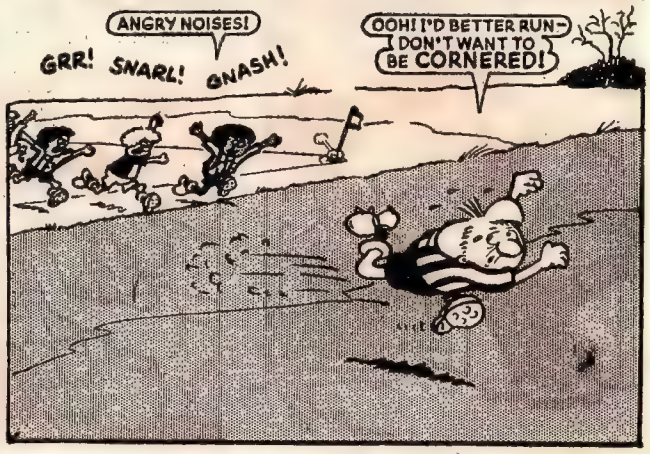

OH, AH! EE-OW!
GET ON WITH IT, OR LET SOMEONE ELSE HAVE A GO!


RIGHT! I'M TAKING NO CHANCES— I'LL LIFT THE POST OUT THIS TIME!


THERE! I DID IT!
PUNCH!
BOOT!


BETTER PUT THIS BACK.
BNO 3.1.81


GOOD GRIEF!
BANG!

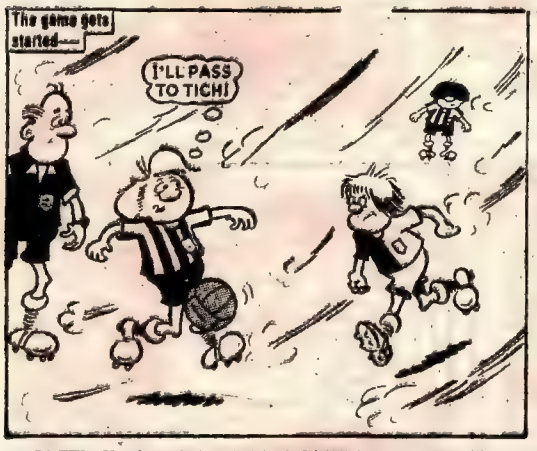

ANGRY NOISES!
GRR! SNARL! GNASH!
OOH! I'D BETTER RUN— DON'T WANT TO BE CORNERED!

# BALL BOY

HUH! WHAT A ROTTEN WINDY DAY FOR A GAME!
PLAYING FIELD

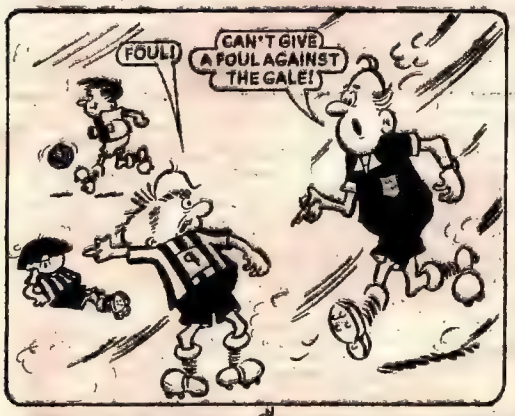
GET READY...

...HEY! DON'T KICK OFF TILL I BLOW THE WHISTLE!
I DIDN'T KICK OFF! THE WIND DID!
WOOO

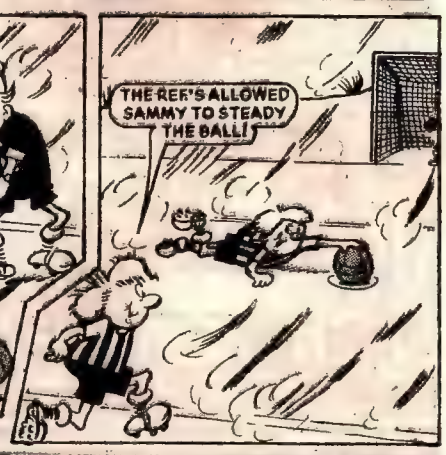

The game gets started...
I'LL PASS TO TICH!

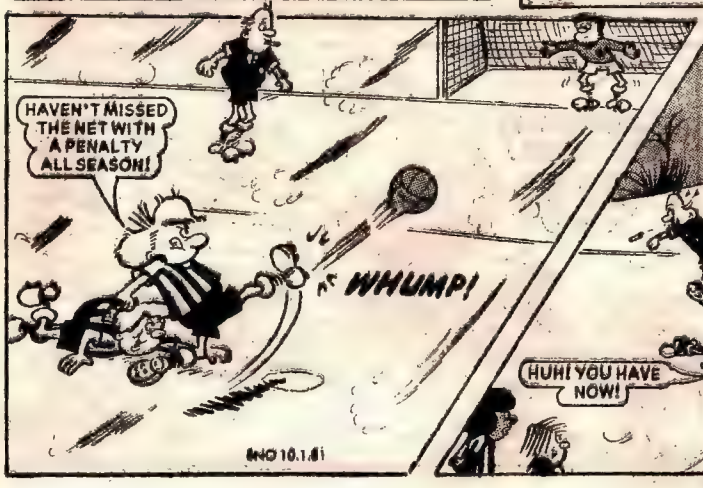
A PERFECT PASS!

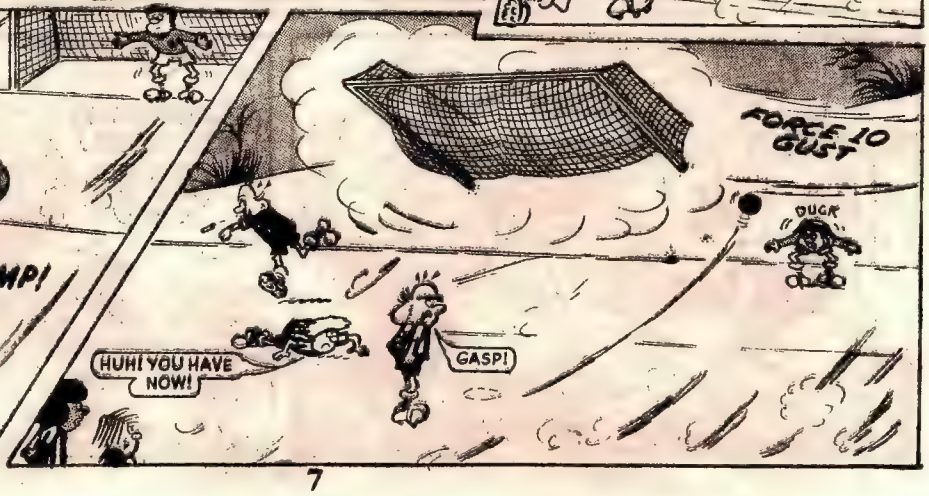
WHOOPS!
SUDDEN FIERCE GUST


FOUL!
CAN'T GIVE A FOUL AGAINST THE GALE!

OUCH! FOUL THIS TIME, REF!
YES, A PENALTY!
TRIP

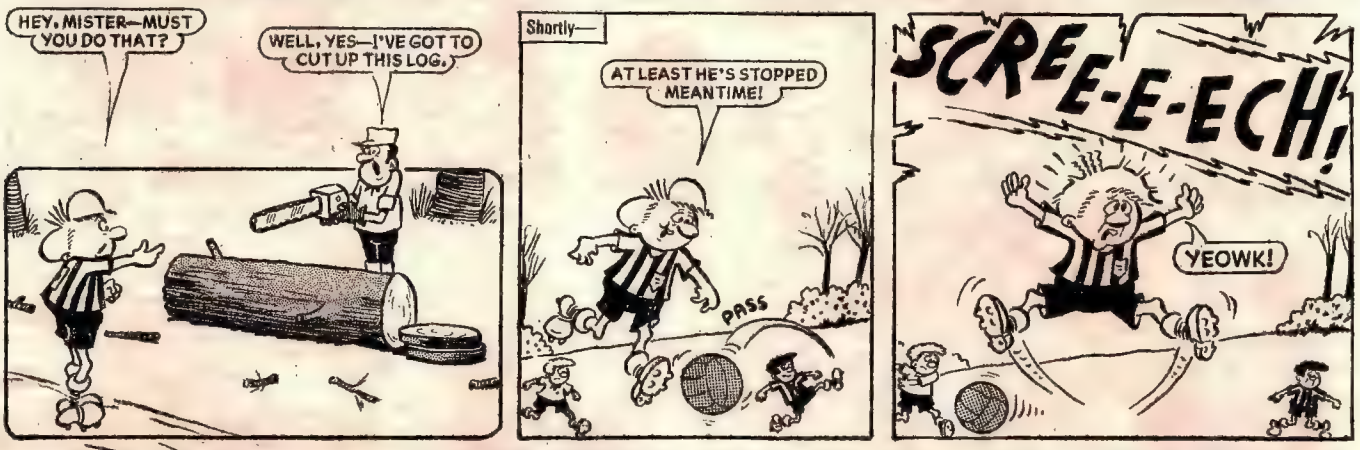

THE REF'S ALLOWED SAMMY TO STEADY THE BALL!

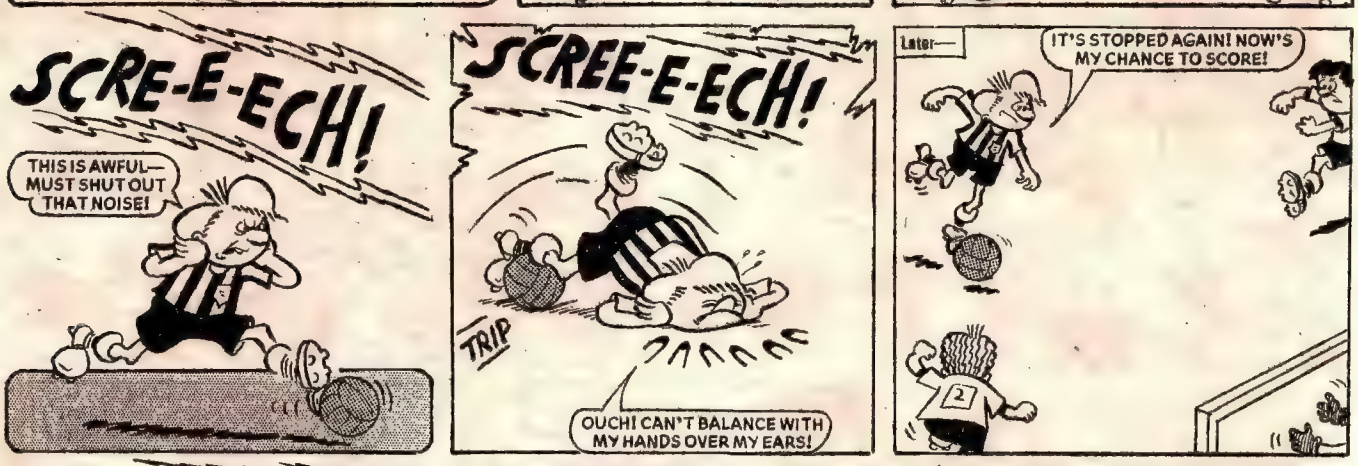

HAVEN'T MISSED THE NET WITH A PENALTY ALL SEASON!
WHUMP!
BNO 10.1.81

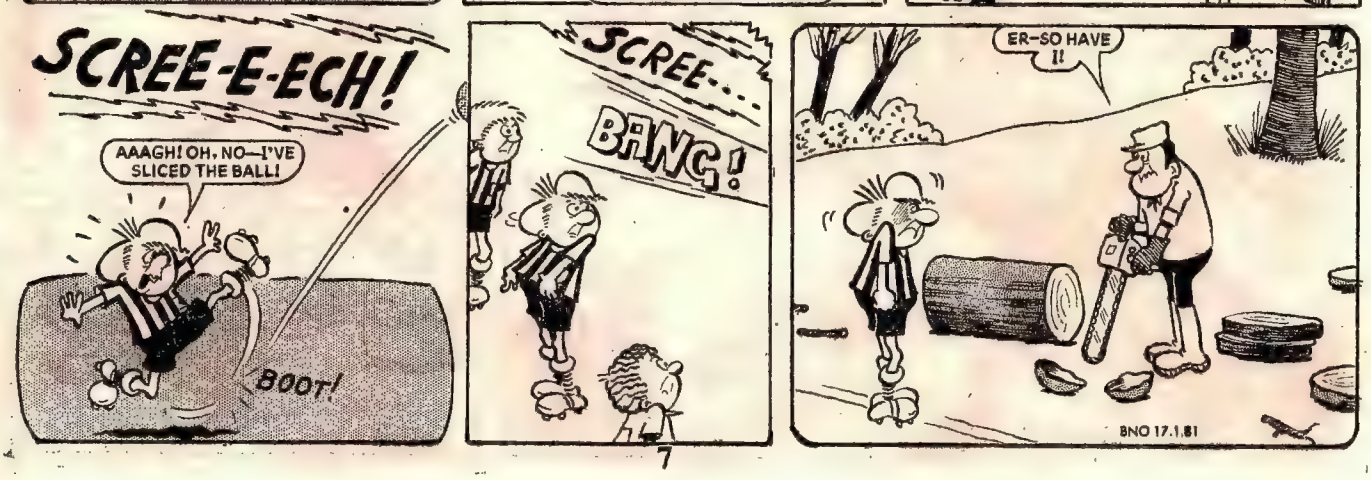

FORCE 10 GUST
DUCK
HUH! YOU HAVE NOW!
GASP!

# BALL BOY

I NEVER MISS PENALTIES!
SCREE-E-ECH!
YIKES! WHAT WAS THAT?
MISS!
SCREE-E-ECH!
WHAT A NOISE—IT PUT ME RIGHT OFF!


HEY, MISTER—MUST YOU DO THAT?
WELL, YES—I'VE GOT TO CUT UP THIS LOG.
Shortly—
AT LEAST HE'S STOPPED MEANTIME!
PASS
SCREE-E-E-ECH!
YEOWK!


SCRE-E-ECH!
THIS IS AWFUL—MUST SHUT OUT THAT NOISE!
SCREE-E-ECH!
TRIP
OUCH! CAN'T BALANCE WITH MY HANDS OVER MY EARS!
Later—
IT'S STOPPED AGAIN! NOW'S MY CHANCE TO SCORE!


SCREE-E-ECH!
AAAGH! OH, NO—I'VE SLICED THE BALL!
BOOT!
SCREE...
BANG!
ER—SO HAVE I!
BNO 17.1.81

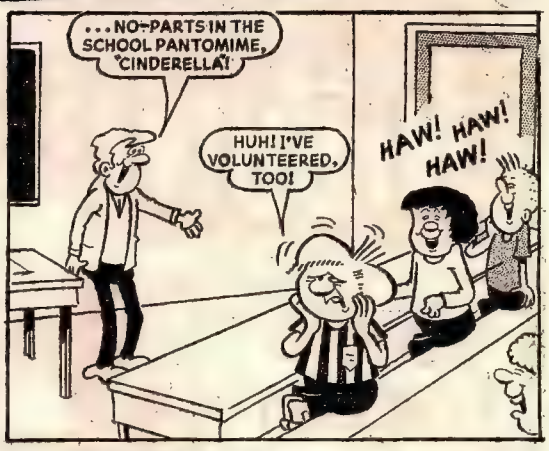
# BALL BOY

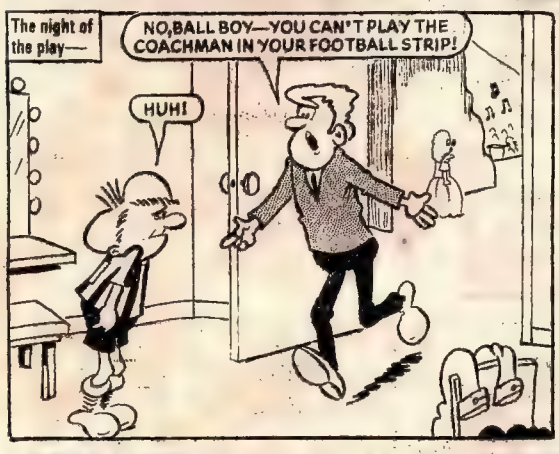
DAD'S TAKING US FOR A DRIVE TO A FISHING VILLAGE TODAY.
AW! I'VE GOT A FOOTBALL MATCH ON!
So—
CAN'T LET THE BOYS DOWN!
SNEAK
And—
BEND
WHAT A GOAL!
THUD!
WOW! ANOTHER ONE!
GREAT PLAY, B.B.! YOU HIT THE NET EVERY TIME!
OH, NO!
THUD!
THUMP!
THERE HE GOES AGAIN! HE JUST CAN'T MISS THAT NET!
OFF! TO THE CAR — YOU WERE TOLD WE WERE GOING FOR A DRIVE!
PHEEP!
HUH!
CODPORT 2 MLS.
GRUMBLE!
And so—
BORED
WOOPS!
SLIP
THUMP!
BNO 24.1.81
WAAAH!
ER—SORRY—I JUST CAN'T HELP HITTING THE NET!

# BALL BOY

I WANT VOLUNTEERS TO PLAY...

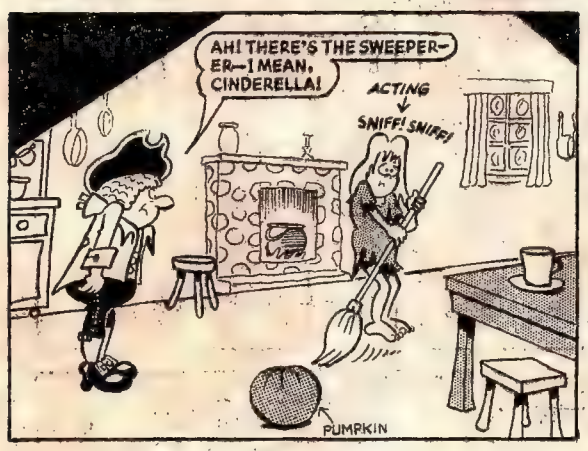
...FOOTBALL? ME!

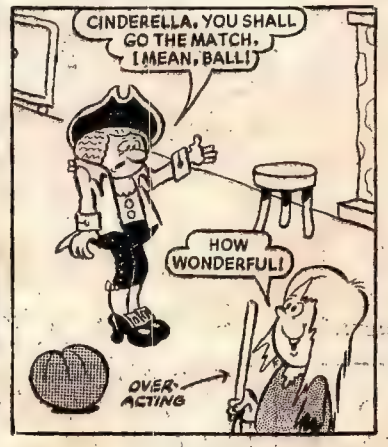

...NO-PARTS IN THE SCHOOL PANTOMIME, "CINDERELLA"!
HUH! I'VE VOLUNTEERED, TOO!
HAW! HAW! HAW!


The night of the play—
NO, BALL BOY—YOU CAN'T PLAY THE COACHMAN IN YOUR FOOTBALL STRIP!
HUH!

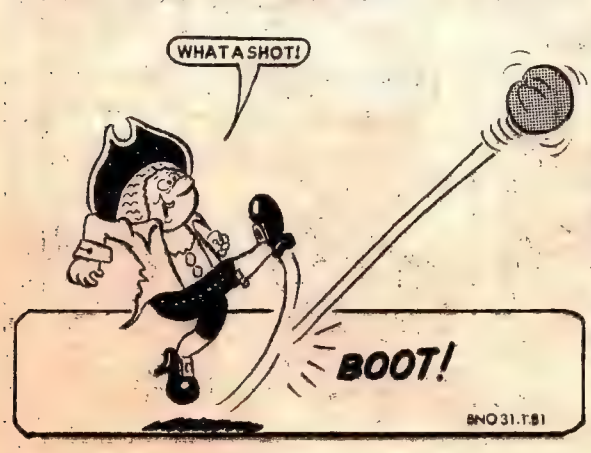
YOU'RE ON!
HUH! WISH YOU'D ORDER ME OFF!

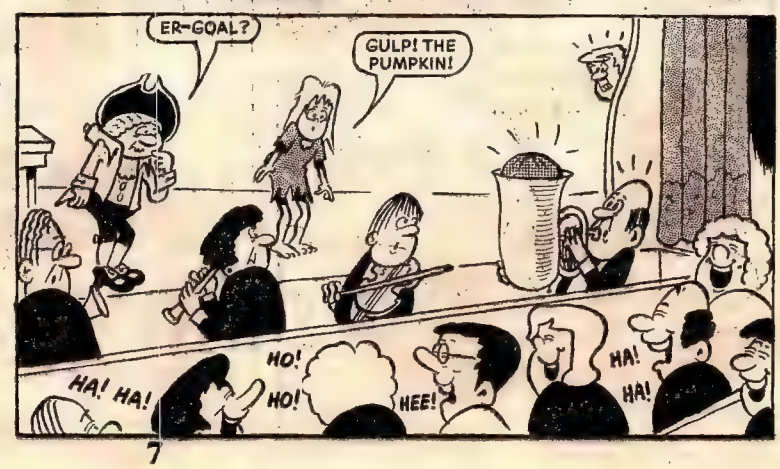
GULP! BIGGEST CROWD I'VE EVER PLAYED IN FRONT OF!


AH! THERE'S THE SWEEPER-ER—I MEAN, CINDERELLA!
ACTING
SNIFF! SNIFF!
PUMPKIN


CINDERELLA, YOU SHALL GO THE MATCH, I MEAN, BALL!
HOW WONDERFUL!
OVER-ACTING

BALL? DID I SAY BALL?
TWITCH
TWITCH

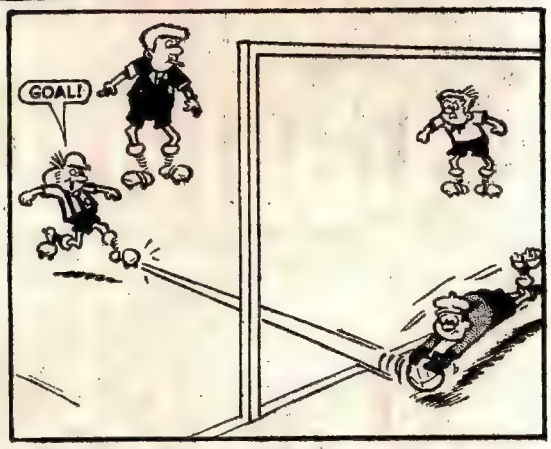

WHAT A SHOT!
BOOT!
8NO31.T81


ER-GOAL?
GULP! THE PUMPKIN!
HA! HA!
HO!
HO!
HEE!
HA!
HA!

# BALL BOY

KICK OFF!
WE SHOULD BEAT THIS LOT TODAY!

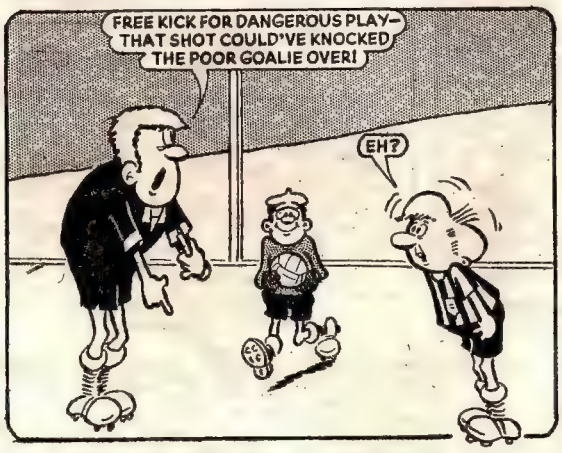
TOLD YOU!


GOAL!

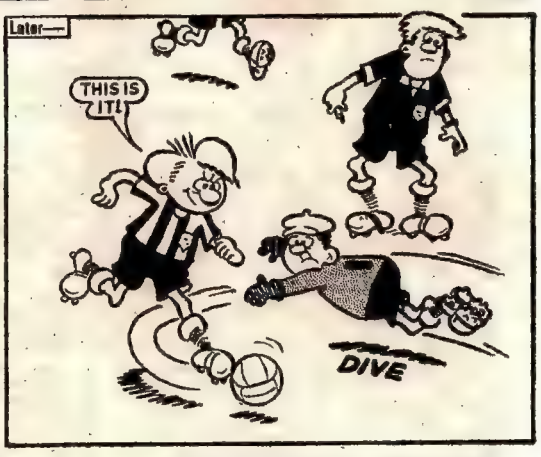
PLAY ON! GOOD SAVE!
WHAT? THAT WAS OVER THE LINE!

Soon—
GREAT CROSS!

CAN'T ARGUE ABOUT THAT, REF!
COWER
ROCKET!
WHAP!

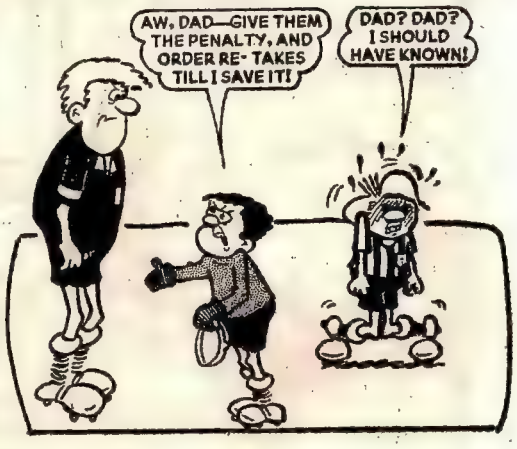

FREE KICK FOR DANGEROUS PLAY— THAT SHOT COULD'VE KNOCKED THE POOR GOALIE OVER!
EH?

MUST KEEP MY TEMPER BOTTLED UP!


Later—
THIS IS IT!
DIVE

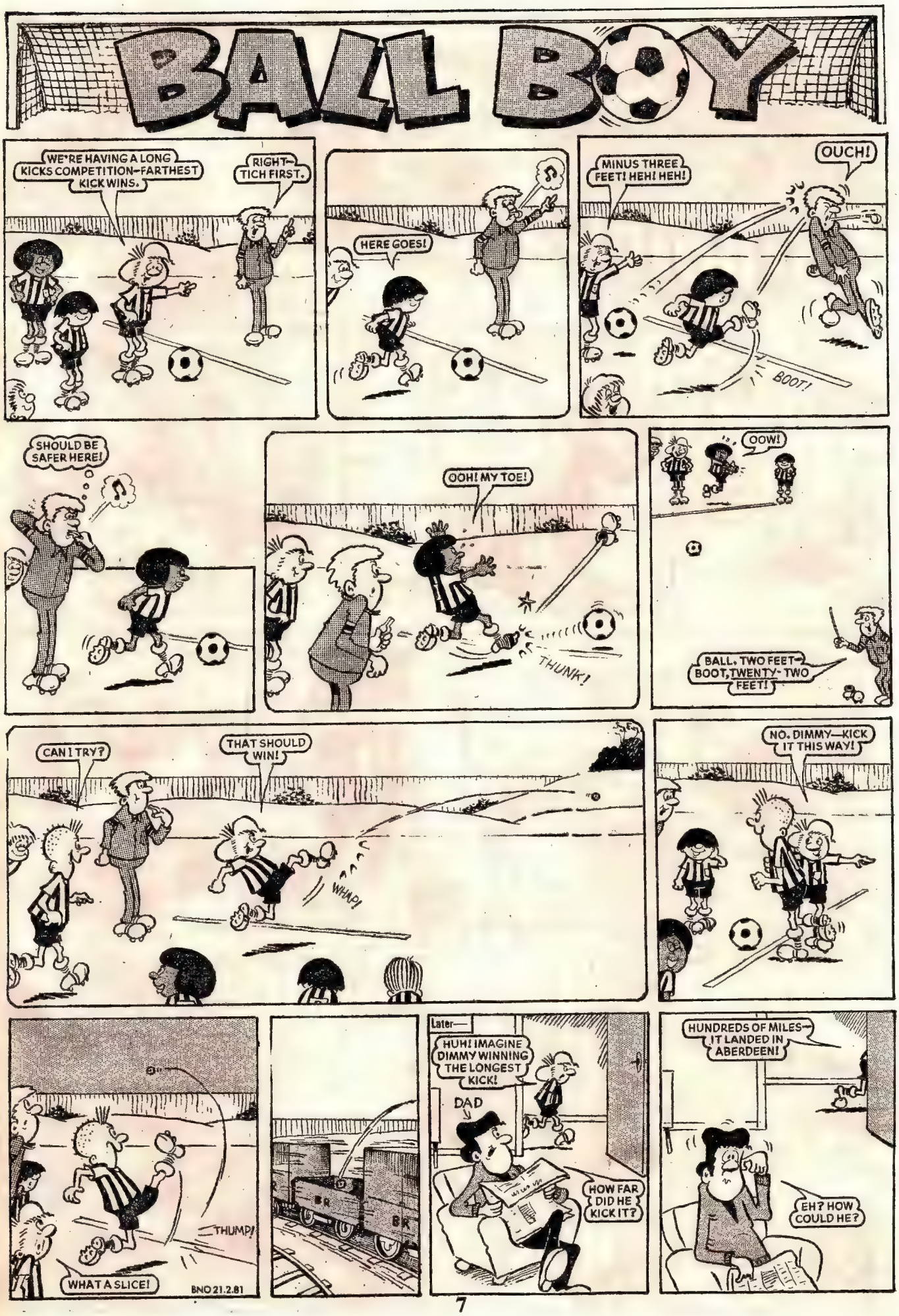
PENALTY!
GRAB
BNO 7.2.81

AN ACCIDENT! PLAY ON!

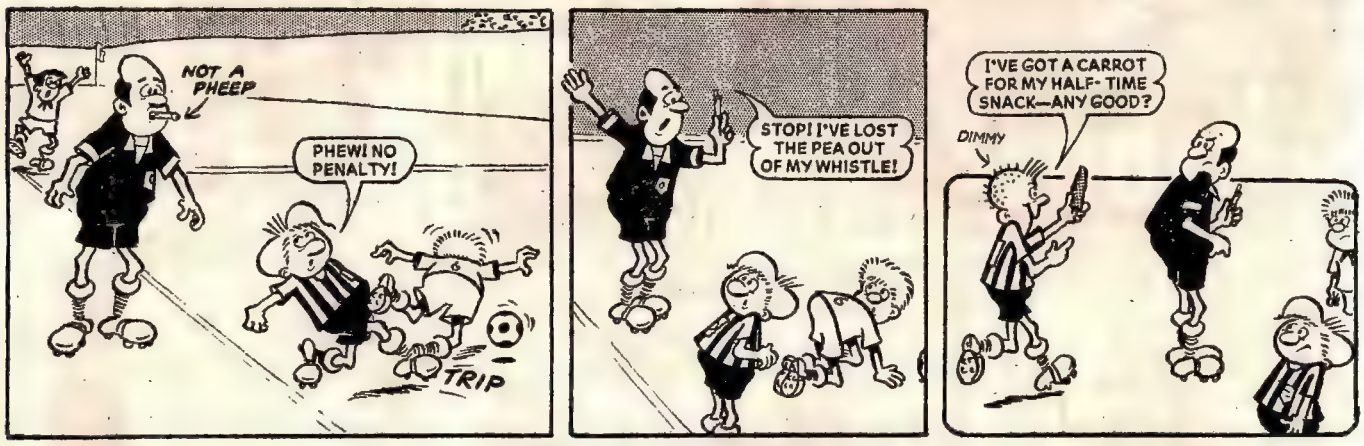

AW, DAD—GIVE THEM THE PENALTY, AND ORDER RE-TAKES TILL I SAVE IT!
DAD? DAD? I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!

# BALL BOY

I'M GOING TO TEAR DOWN THE WING!
HUH! A DIFFERENT KIND OF TEARING!
RIP!
Then—
GOAL!
WELL DONE, BENJY!
SLAP!
SLAP!
SLAP!
SLAP!
SLAP!
SLAP!
HUH! TOO MUCH BACK SLAPPING!
Full time—
LOOK AT OUR TATTERED JERSEYS! I'LL DIP INTO THE CLUB FUNDS AND GET ANOTHER SET.
ANOTHER GOAL SCORER
SPORTS SHOP
CATTLE MARKET
CLOSED
CLOSED—BUT I'LL PHONE UP FOR A NEW SET OF STRIPS LATER.
SEND ELEVEN JERSEYS UP TO OUR PLAYING FIELDS, PLEASE.
OK, IF YOU'RE SURE!
Next day—
OUR NEW JERSEYS SHOULD BE HERE FOR TODAY'S GAME.
PITCHES
HEY! WHAT'S THIS?
ELEVEN JERSEY COWS YOU ASKED FOR—ELEVEN JERSEYS YOU'VE GOT!
AW, NO! I PHONED THE CATTLE MARKET BY MISTAKE!
HEY, DAISY—YOU'RE OFFSIDE!
I'M A JERSEY, BUT I KNOW A HORSE WHO'S A JUMPER!
BLUE MOO-N!
I'M THE CREAM IN YOUR COFFEE.
GRASS FOR BREAKFAST, GRASS FOR DINNER, GRASS FOR TEA . . .
BNO 14.2.81


BALL BOY
WE'RE HAVING A LONG KICKS COMPETITION—FARTHEST KICK WINS.
RIGHT—TICH FIRST.
HERE GOES!
MINUS THREE FEET! HEH! HEH!
OUCH!
BOOT!
SHOULD BE SAFER HERE!
OOH! MY TOE!
THUNK!
OOW!
BALL. TWO FEET—BOOT, TWENTY-TWO FEET!
CAN I TRY?
THAT SHOULD WIN!
WHAP!
NO. DIMMY—KICK IT THIS WAY!
THUMP!
WHAT A SLICE!
BNO 21.2.81
Later—
HUH! IMAGINE DIMMY WINNING THE LONGEST KICK!
DAD
HOW FAR DID HE KICK IT?
HUNDREDS OF MILES—IT LANDED IN ABERDEEN!
EH? HOW COULD HE?

# BALL BOY


NOT A PHEEP
PHEW! NO PENALTY!
TRIP


STOP! I'VE LOST THE PEA OUT OF MY WHISTLE!


I'VE GOT A CARROT FOR MY HALF-TIME SNACK—ANY GOOD?
DIMMY

OH!
NO—IT'S GOT TO GO IN HERE!

HERE IT IS!
LET ME SEE, TICH.

HUH! THAT'S ONE 'P', NOT ONE PEA!
SO THAT'S WHERE LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION GOT TO!

HUH! WE'LL NEVER FIND IT!
LOOK
WHAT COLOUR IS THIS PEA, REF?
LOOK
LOOK
LOOK
LOOK
LOOK

INJURED, BENJY?
NO—THERE'S SOMETHING IN MY BOOT.
LIMP

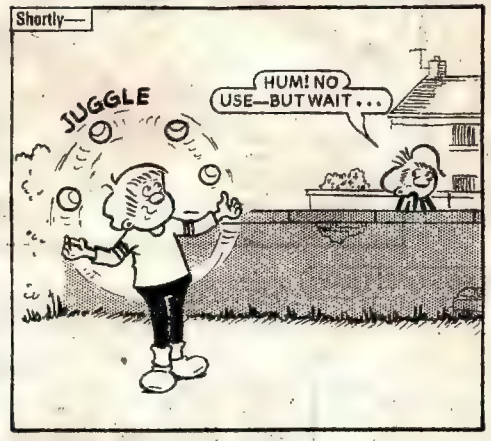
AH! THE MISSING PEA!
PHEW! THAT'S A RELIEF!

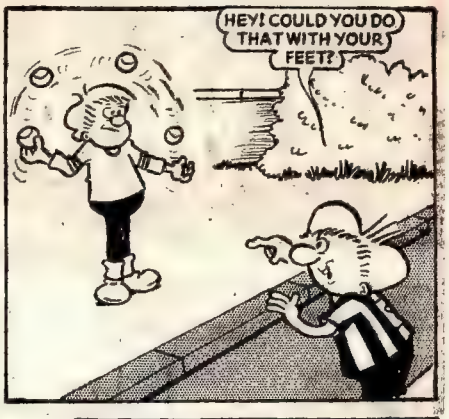
WELL DONE, BOYS!
PUSH

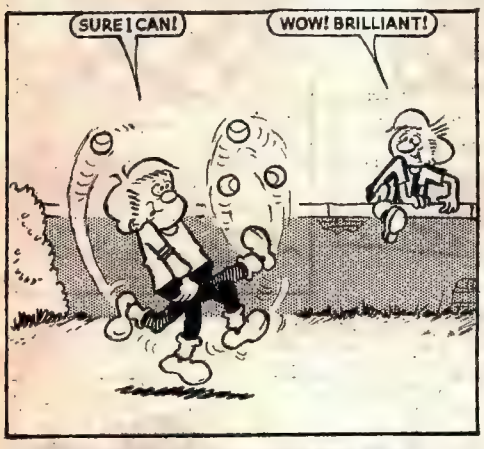
PENALTY AGAINST BALL BOY'S TEAM!
PHEEP!
HUH! WISH WE'D NEVER FOUND THAT PEA!
BNO 28.2.81

# BALL BOY

I'M ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR NEW FOOTBALL TALENT.


Shortly—
JUGGLE
HUM! NO USE—BUT WAIT...

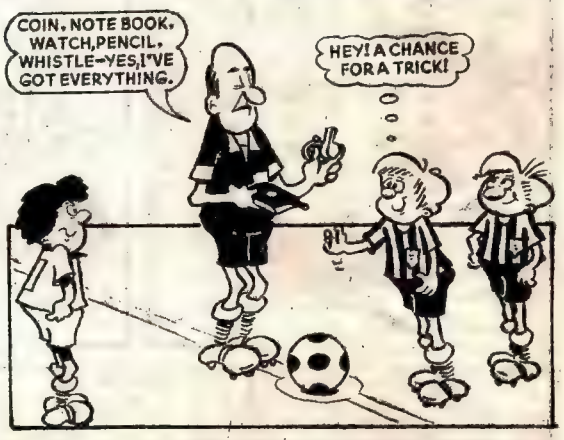

HEY! COULD YOU DO THAT WITH YOUR FEET?


SURE I CAN!
WOW! BRILLIANT!

SIGN HERE FOR MY TEAM!
OK!

That afternoon—
WHAT A SIGNING!
TUM-TE-TUM!

OO-ER! NO NONSENSE WITH HIM!
OFFICIALS' CHANGING ROOMS
VERY STRICT REF.


COIN, NOTE BOOK, WATCH, PENCIL, WHISTLE—YES, I'VE GOT EVERYTHING.
HEY! A CHANCE FOR A TRICK!

JUGGLE
GOOD, EH?
BNO 7.3.81

OFF! OFF! GET HIM OFF!
AW, NO!

HUM! JUGGLER— YOU'RE DROPPED FROM NOW ON!

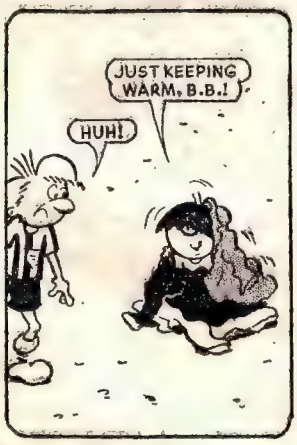
# BALL BOY

LET'S HAVE A GAME OF "THREE AND IN"—FIRST TO SCORE THREE GOALS WINS, THEN TAKES A SHOT OF BEING GOALIE.
WE'VE NO GOALPOSTS!

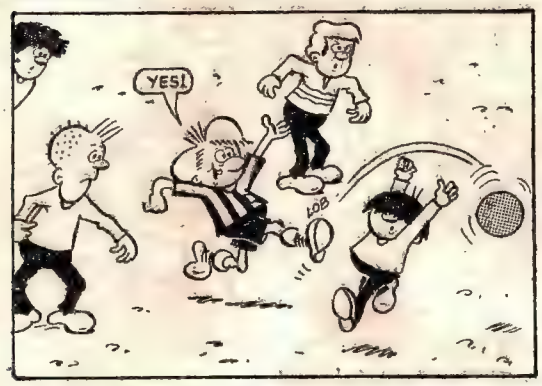
NO PROBLEM—WE ONLY NEED ONE GOAL. PUT YOUR JACKETS DOWN AS POSTS.

SO—
TICH WILL SAVE THAT!
TAP

ONE FOR ME!
WHERE'S TICH GONE?


JUST KEEPING WARM, B.B.!
HUH!

MUST SCORE!


YES!

NO GOAL!
WHY NOT?

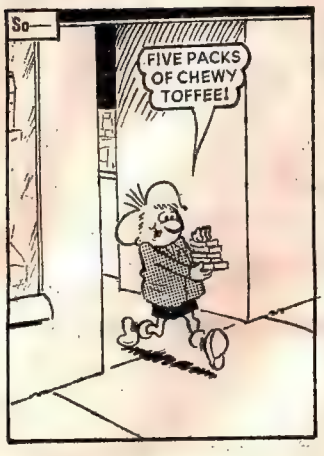
I'LL GET SOME MONEY FOR THESE, AND I'LL BUY MYSELF A NEW COAT!
NO GOALS!
HUH! THAT OLD TRAMP'S ONLY LEFT HIS TATTY OLD COAT!

PUFF!
PANT! HE'S FAST! WE'LL NEVER CATCH HIM!
PANT!
PUFF!
BNO 14.3.81

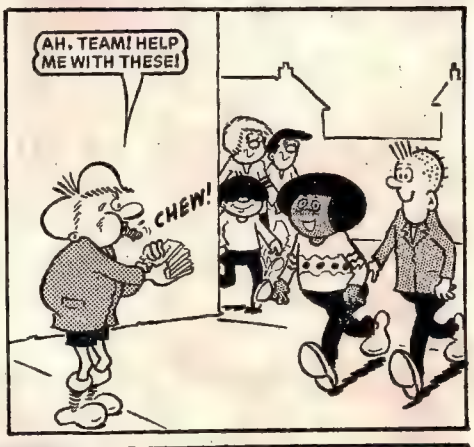
THIS IS YOUR FAULT, B.B.!
WE'RE GETTING COLD!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

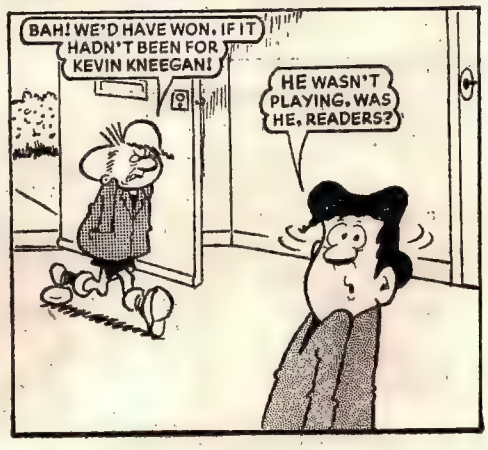
SO—
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN THIS TO OUR MUMS, B.B.!
LAST TIME I'LL USE JACKETS AS GOALPOSTS!

# BALL BOY

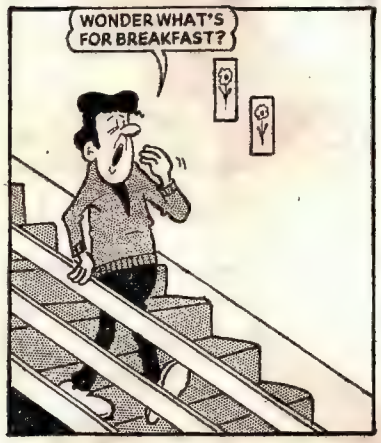


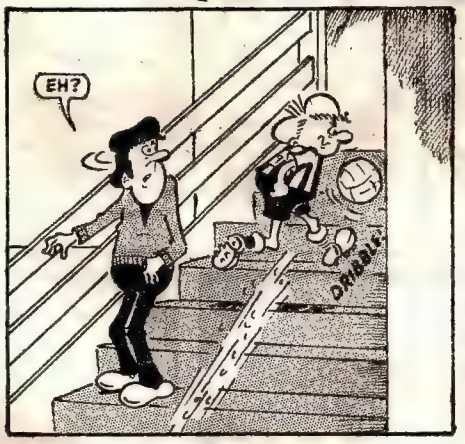
*No Kevin Kneegan, so B.B. buys another five packs of Chewy Toffee.*

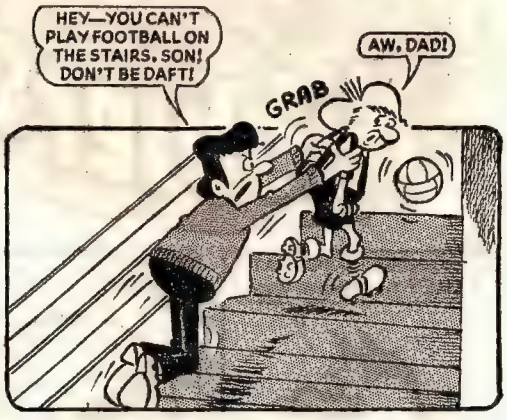




# BALL BOY


WONDER WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST?

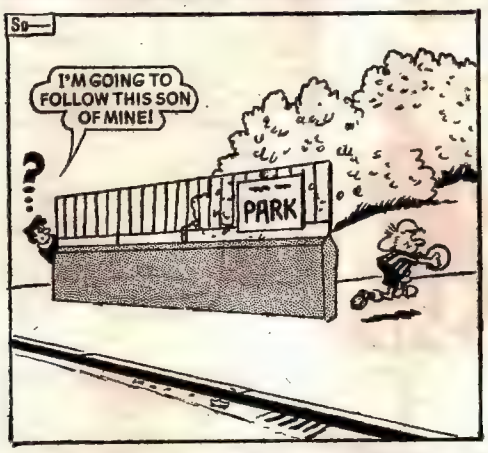

EH?
DRIBBLE

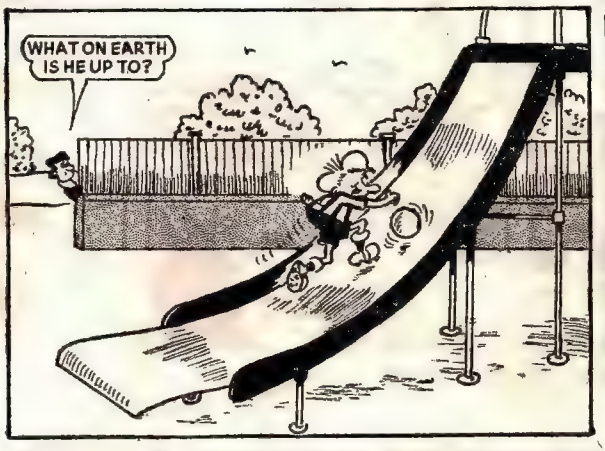

HEY—YOU CAN'T PLAY FOOTBALL ON THE STAIRS, SON! DON'T BE DAFT!
AW, DAD!
GRAB

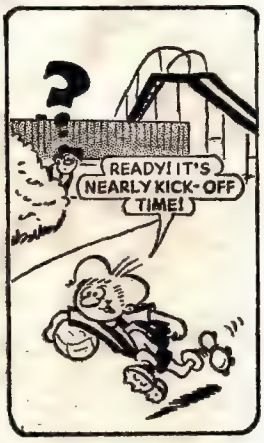
Later—
NOW FOR A STROLL ROUND MY GARDEN.

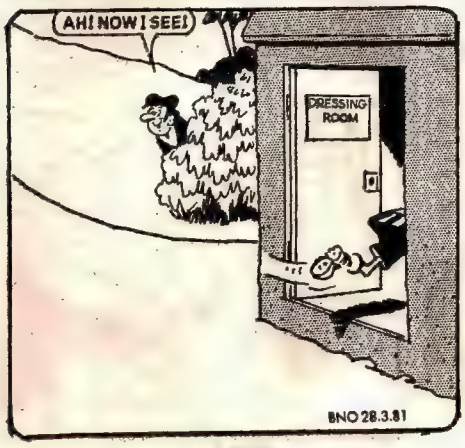
And—
DOWN! YOU'RE NOT PLAYING FOOTBALL ON THE GARAGE ROOF!

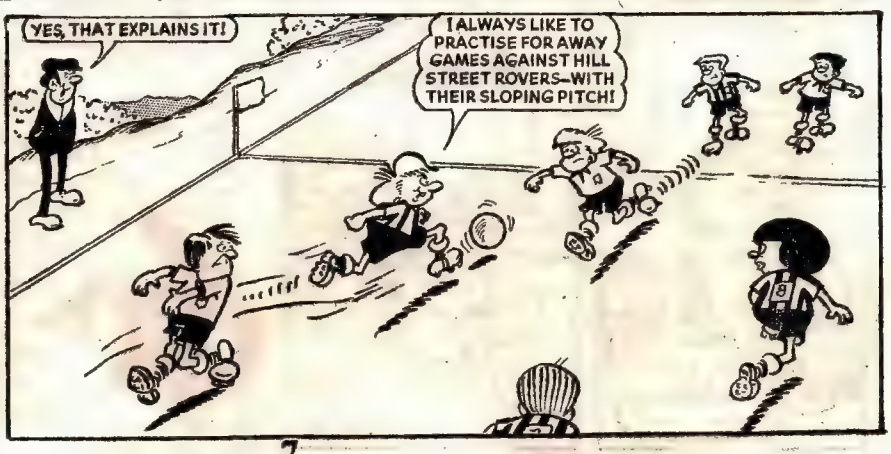
HUH! WHERE CAN I PRACTISE?
?


So—
I'M GOING TO FOLLOW THIS SON OF MINE!
?...
PARK


WHAT ON EARTH IS HE UP TO?


?
READY! IT'S NEARLY KICK-OFF TIME!

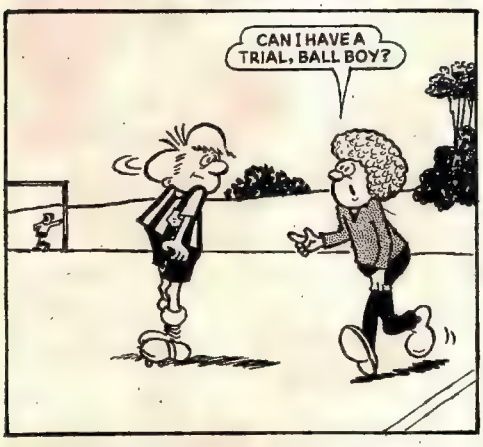

AH! NOW I SEE!
DRESSING ROOM
BNO 28.3.81


YES, THAT EXPLAINS IT!
I ALWAYS LIKE TO PRACTISE FOR AWAY GAMES AGAINST HILL STREET ROVERS—WITH THEIR SLOPING PITCH!

# BALL BOY

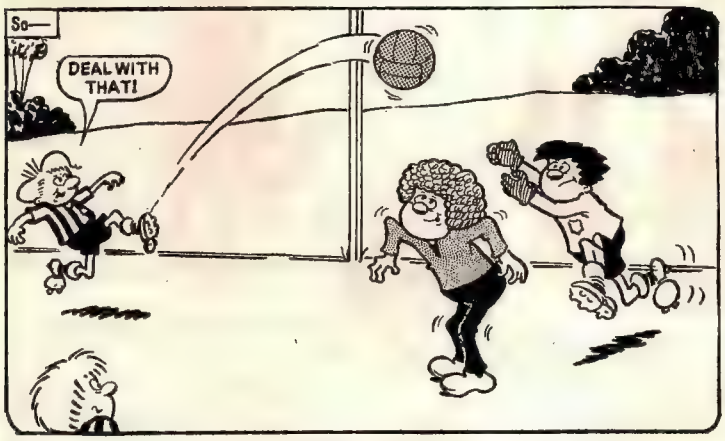
One evening—
HARD MATCH, THAT! HOME FOR SUPPER, THEN BED.
B.B.
I ALWAYS HAVE LOTS OF CHEESE FOR MY SUPPER.
READER'S VOICE
WHY, B.B.?
SCOFF
IT MAKES ME DREAM, AND I ALWAYS DREAM ABOUT FOOTBALL!
A minute later—
SNORE!
WHAT A GAME I'M HAVING!
EFFORTLESS EASE...
A DREAM GOAL!
WELL, THIS IS A DREAM, AFTER ALL!
5
NOD
AW, NO! THEY'VE SCORED IN THE LAST MINUTE OF THIS CUP-TIE!
8
At school—
ALL PRESENT EXCEPT BALL BOY.
REGISTER
SORRY I'M LATE— I WAS DREAMING ABOUT FOOTBALL!
HOW IS THAT AN EXCUSE FOR COMING IN AT HALF-PAST NINE?
THERE WAS HALF AN HOUR EXTRA TIME, SIR!
HA! HA!
HAW! HAW!
BNO 4.4.81

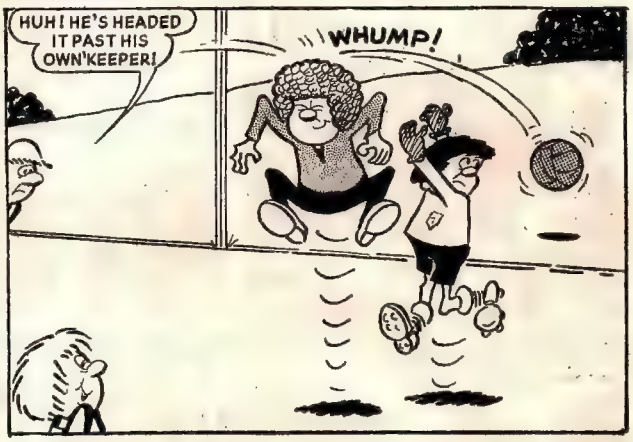
# BALL BOY


CAN I HAVE A TRIAL, BALL BOY?

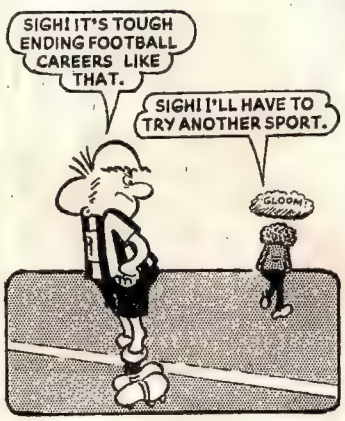
HAW! HAW! WHY? HAVE YOU ROBBED A BANK?

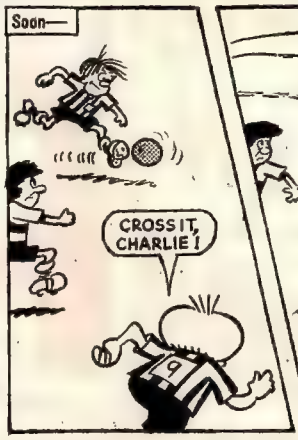
DON'T LAUGH, THEN! STILL—WE'LL SEE WHAT YOU'RE LIKE AT CENTRE HALF.


So—
DEAL WITH THAT!


HUH! HE'S HEADED IT PAST HIS OWN KEEPER!
WHUMP!

SORRY, PAL—YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CONTROL IN THE AIR.

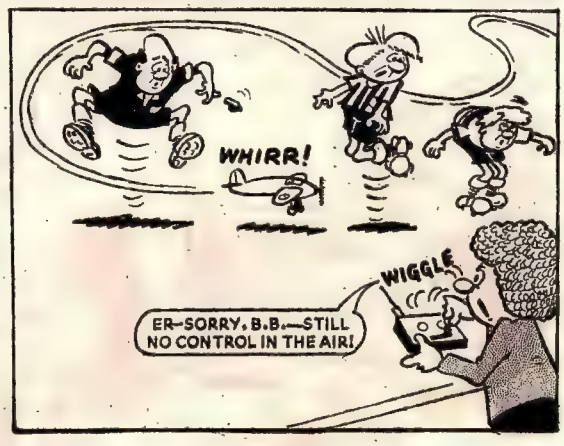

SIGH! IT'S TOUGH ENDING FOOTBALL CAREERS LIKE THAT.
SIGH! I'LL HAVE TO TRY ANOTHER SPORT.
GLOOM


Soon—
CROSS IT, CHARLIE!

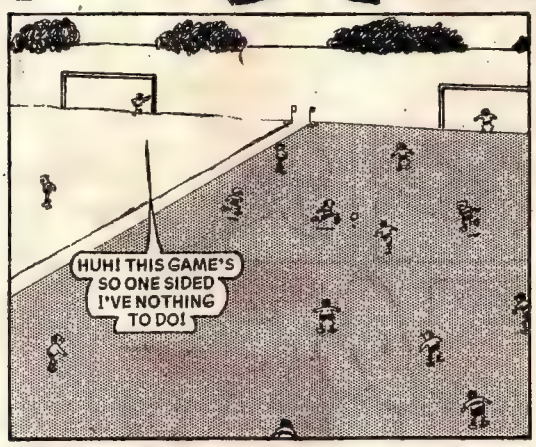
MUST SCORE!

WHIRR!
EH?
BNO 11.4.81

WHIRR!
BANG!
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?


WHIRR!
WIGGLE
ER—SORRY, B.B.—STILL NO CONTROL IN THE AIR!

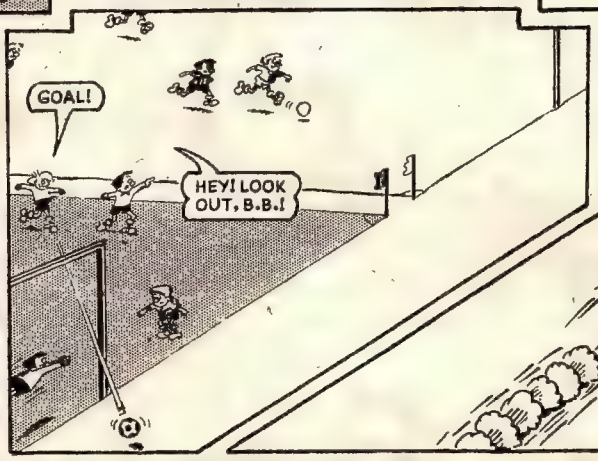
# BALL BOY


HUH! THIS GAME'S SO ONE SIDED I'VE NOTHING TO DO!

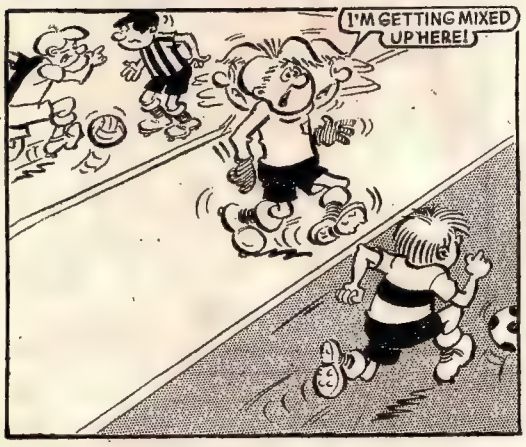
YOU COULD COME AND HELP US, B.B.—WE'RE A MAN SHORT!
HEY! GOOD IDEA!

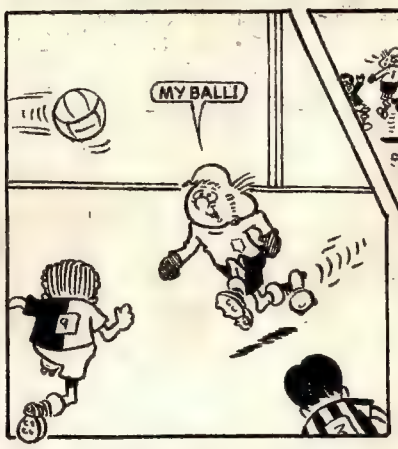
RIGHT! MY TEAM'S ATTACKING—OVER TO THE OTHER PITCH I GO!

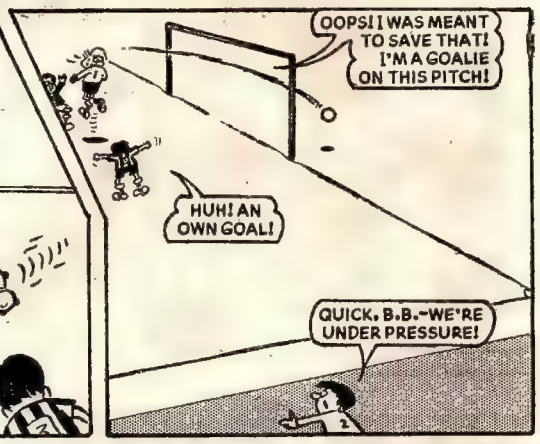
IT'S GREAT TO BE IN ACTION AGAIN!

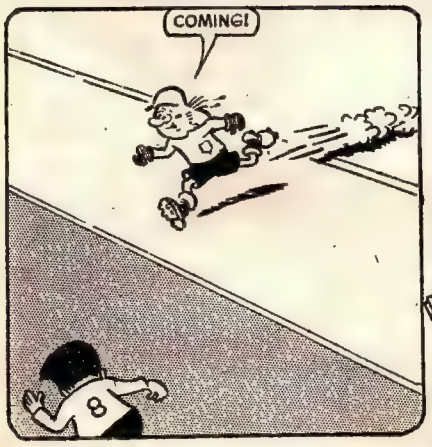

GOAL!
HEY! LOOK OUT, B.B.!

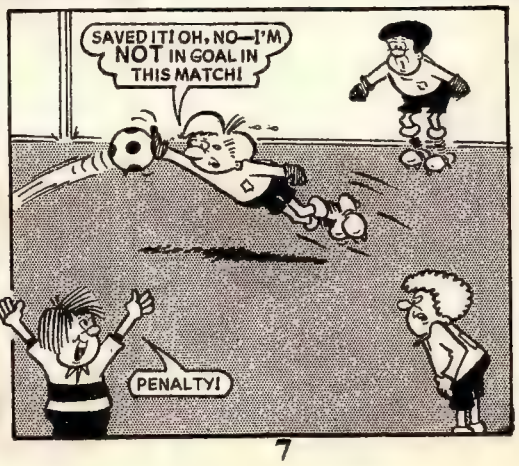

WELL SAVED, ME!


I'M GETTING MIXED UP HERE!


MY BALL!

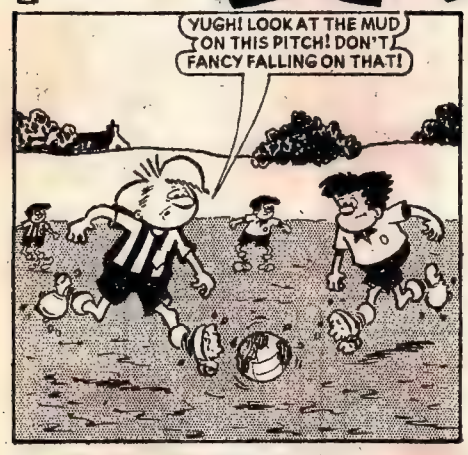

OOPS! I WAS MEANT TO SAVE THAT! I'M A GOALIE ON THIS PITCH!
HUH! AN OWN GOAL!
QUICK, B.B.—WE'RE UNDER PRESSURE!


COMING!


SAVED IT! OH, NO—I'M NOT IN GOAL IN THIS MATCH!
PENALTY!

HUH! I'VE JUST BEEN SUBSTITUTED—TWICE!
BNO 18.4.81

# BALL BOY


YUGH! LOOK AT THE MUD ON THIS PITCH! DON'T FANCY FALLING ON THAT!

NO WAY! YOU'RE NOT KNOCKING ME INTO THE MUD!
LEAP
SLIDE

Soon—
WOOPS!
NOD

HEY! THAT WAS LUCKY!
NOT FOR ME! SPLUT!
SPLOP!

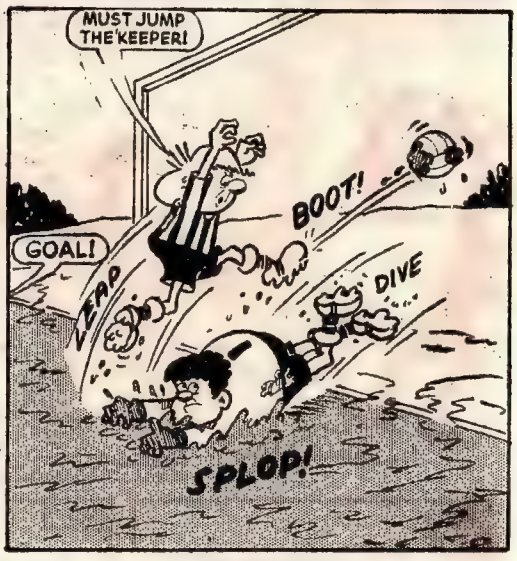
Half time—
HEH! I'M THE ONLY PLAYER WHO HASN'T FALLEN!

Second half—
OOOF!
THUD!
CHARGE

PHEW! GOOD JOB THE REF WAS THERE!
GRAB
RIP!

AH, WELL, IT WAS WORTH GETTING MY NAME TAKEN!

ONLY SECONDS TO GO! I'M GOING TO STAY CLEAN!
CLEAN THROUGH THE DEFENCE

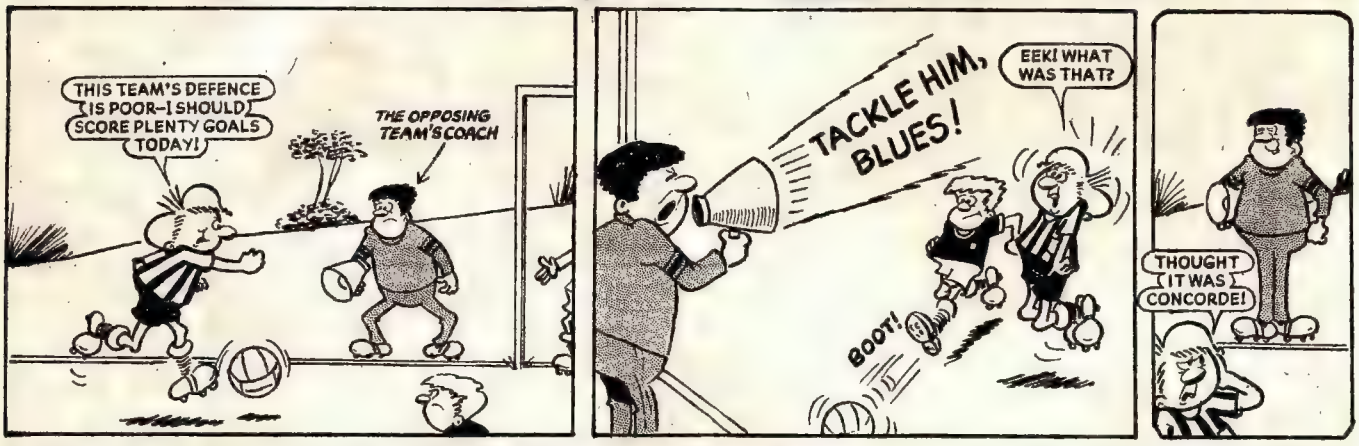

MUST JUMP THE KEEPER!
BOOT!
GOAL!
LEAP
DIVE
SPLOP!

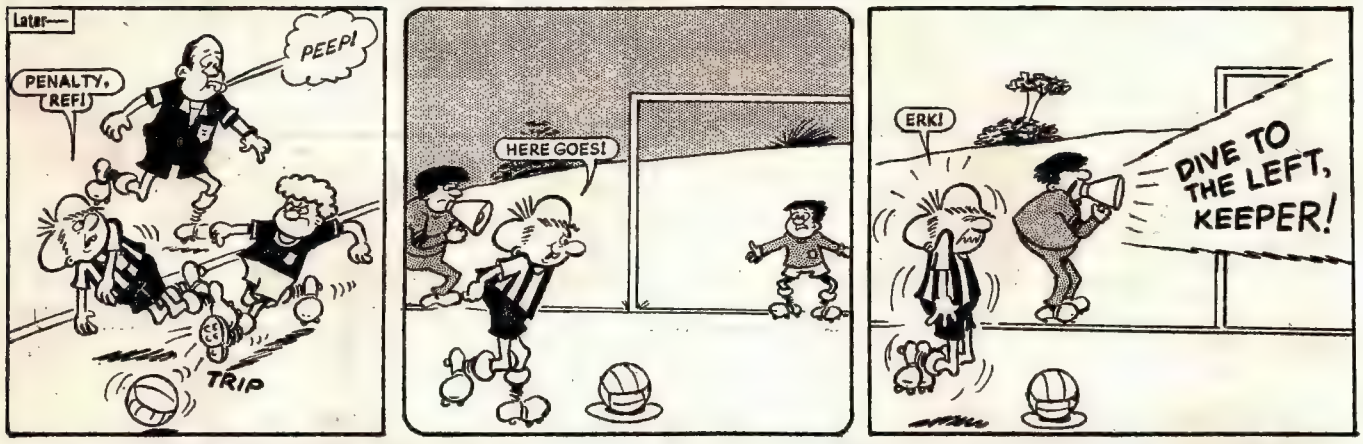
TIME UP!
I'VE MADE IT! SPOTLESS!

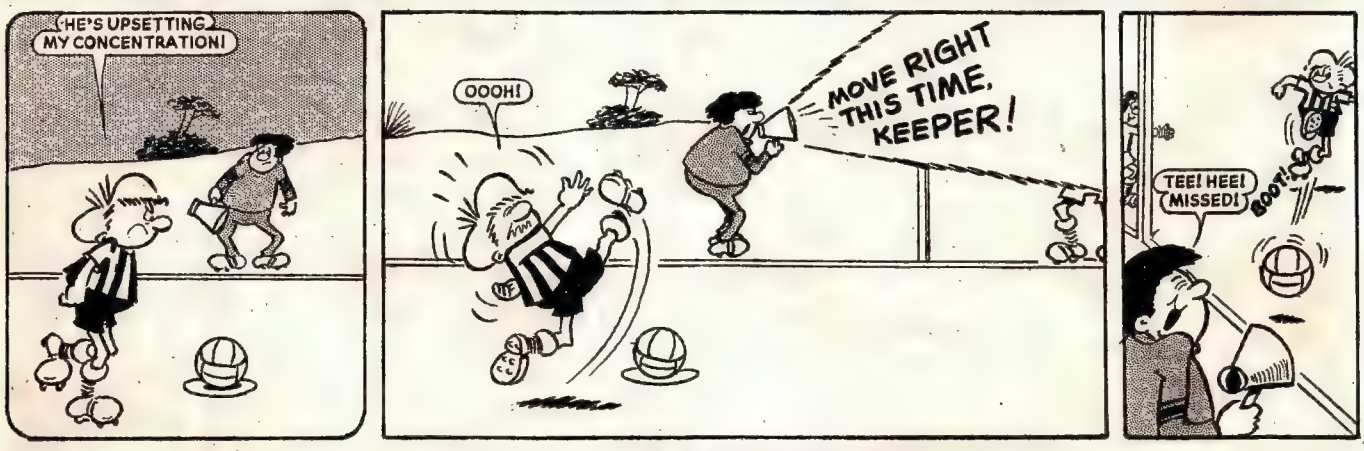
BRILLIANT GOAL, B.B.!
SLAP! SLAP! SLAP!

BAH! WHY DID I HAVE TO SCORE?

# BALL BOY


THIS TEAM'S DEFENCE IS POOR—I SHOULD SCORE PLENTY GOALS TODAY!
THE OPPOSING TEAM'S COACH
TACKLE HIM, BLUES!
EEK! WHAT WAS THAT?
BOOT!
THOUGHT IT WAS CONCORDE!


Later—
PENALTY, REF!
PEEP!
TRIP
HERE GOES!
ERK!
DIVE TO THE LEFT, KEEPER!

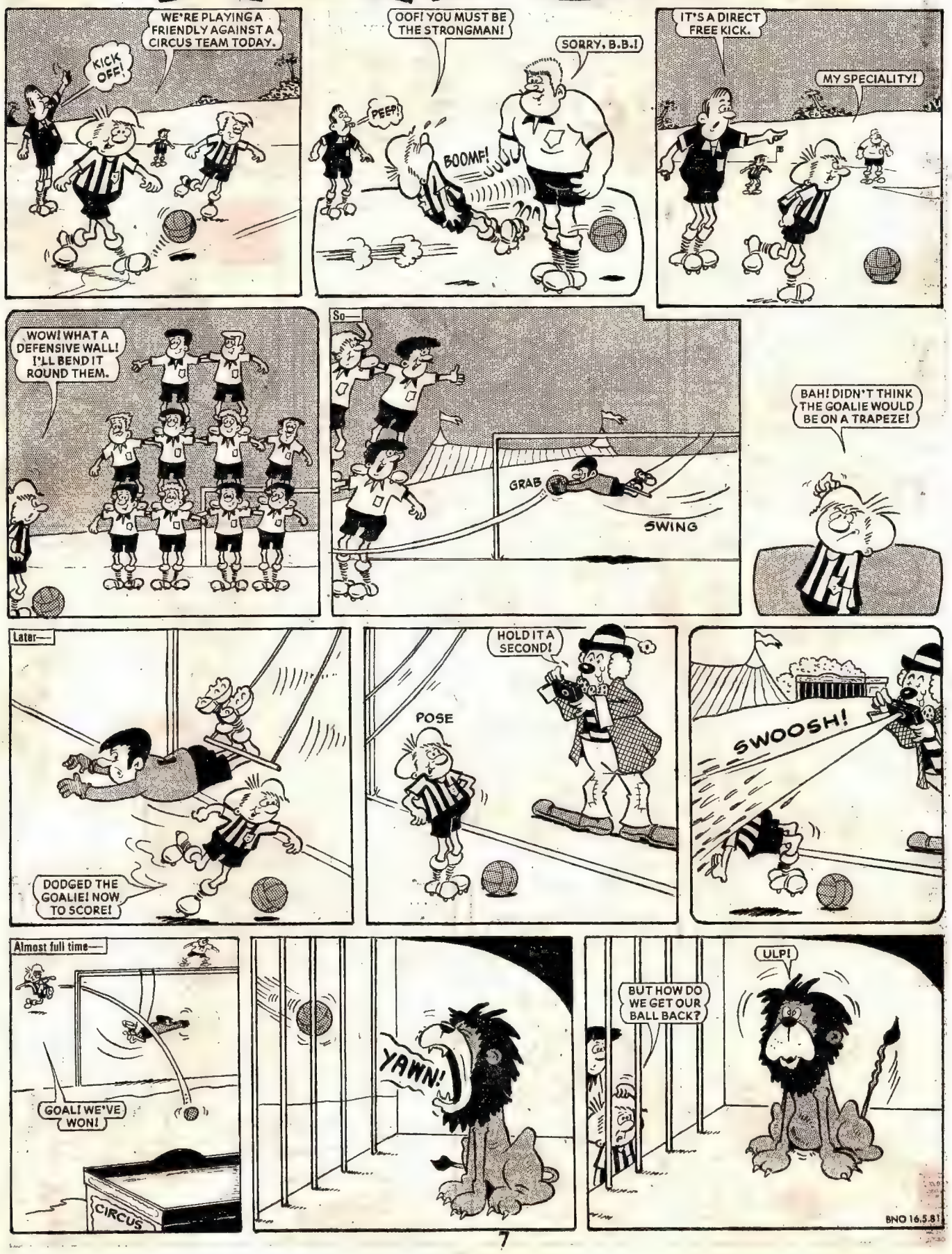

HE'S UPSETTING MY CONCENTRATION!
OOOH!
MOVE RIGHT THIS TIME, KEEPER!
TEE! HEE! MISSED!
BOOT!

But—
STUCK
THAT SHOULD KEEP YOU QUIET!
PEACE AT LAST!
YIPES! HE'S WORSE WITHOUT THE MEGAPHONE!
OFFSIDE, REF!
BNO 2.5.81

# BALL BOY

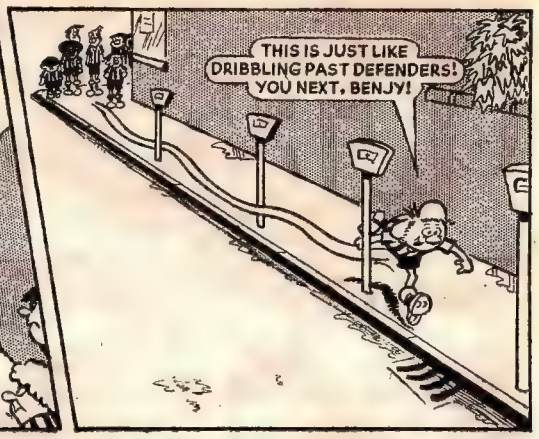
THERE YOU ARE, B.B.— YOUR TEAM'S BOOTS ARE ALL REPAIRED.
GREAT! WE'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT MATCH THIS AFTERNOON!
SHOE REPAIRS
That afternoon—
OOW! THESE BOOTS ARE PINCHING MY FEET!
SAME HERE!
AND ME!
HEY! THESE ARE ALL LEFT-FOOT BOOTS!
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A MIX-UP AT THE SHOP!
WELL, IT'S TOO LATE TO SORT IT OUT NOW!
IS THIS THE PENSIONERS' TEAM?
HOBBLE
LIMP
HOBBLE
NOW FOR A GREAT PASS OUT TO MY WINGER!
OH, NO! THESE STUPID BOOTS HAVE LET ME DOWN!
TA!
I'LL CURL THIS SHOT ROUND THE KEEPER WITH MY RIGHT BOOT!
OOPS! FORGOT I'D A LEFT-FOOTED BOOT ON MY RIGHT FOOT!
SLICE
MUST MAKE A GOOD TACKLE HERE!
But—
WAAH! THAT DAFT BOOT'S MADE ME TRIP!
PENALTY!
OOF!
ZUNK!
Full time—
LUCKY THEY MISSED THAT PENALTY—WE GOT A NIL-NIL DRAW!
READER'S VOICE
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET A DRAW WITH THOSE BOOTS ON?
HOBBLE
LIMP
HOBBLE
BNO 9.5.81
GUESS WHICH TEAM GOT ALL RIGHT-FOOTED BOOTS FROM THE COBBLER!
LIMP
HOBBLE
HOBBLE

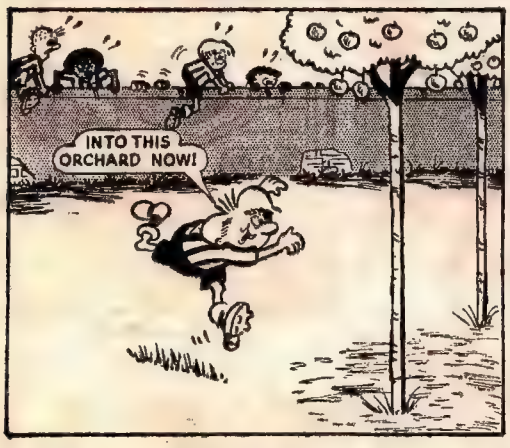
# BALL BOY

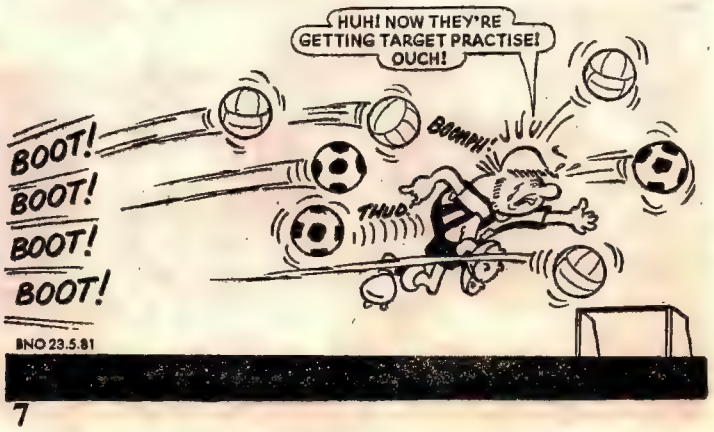

KICK OFF!
WE'RE PLAYING A FRIENDLY AGAINST A CIRCUS TEAM TODAY.
PEEP!
OOF! YOU MUST BE THE STRONGMAN!
BOOMF!
SORRY, B.B.!
IT'S A DIRECT FREE KICK.
MY SPECIALITY!
WOW! WHAT A DEFENSIVE WALL! I'LL BEND IT ROUND THEM.
So—
GRAB
SWING
BAH! DIDN'T THINK THE GOALIE WOULD BE ON A TRAPEZE!
Later—
DODGED THE GOALIE! NOW TO SCORE!
HOLD IT A SECOND!
POSE
SWOOSH!
Almost full time—
GOAL! WE'VE WON!
CIRCUS
YAWN!
BUT HOW DO WE GET OUR BALL BACK?
ULP!
BNO 16.5.81

# BALL BOY

One day—






BNO 23.5.81

# BALL BOY

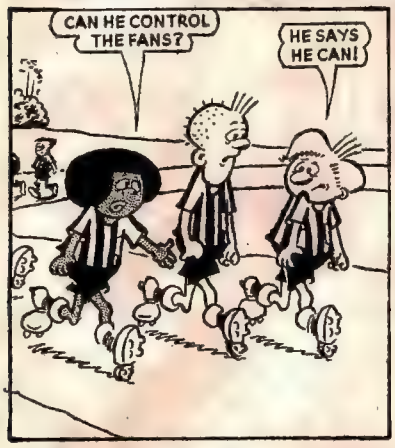
NO, READERS—THE STRIPES ON MY JERSEY HAVEN'T WASHED OFF! I'M PLAYING IN GOALS TODAY!
UNITED OK.
At the sports shop—
THAT REMINDS ME OF DIMMY, OUR LEFT-BACK—BRAINLESS!
OH-HO!
"LEAPO" FOOTBALL STUDS
NEW RUBBER STUDS WHICH MAKE YOU LEAP LIKE A KANGAROO
"LEAPO" STUDS FITTED WHILE YOU WAIT
I'LL HAVE A SET OF THOSE—THEY MIGHT HELP ME TODAY!
INDOOR FISHING TACKLES FOR STAY-AT-HOMES
OH, BOY! THEY CERTAINLY WILL!
SPRING
!
THEY'RE GREAT!
SMASHING!
BYOING!
OUCH! BUT YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK WHERE YOU'RE LANDING!
THUD!
Later, at the game—
HERE WE GO! I SHOULD DO A GREAT GOALKEEPING JOB WITH THESE STUDS!
BYOING!
BYOING!
I CAN JUMP THIS WAY...
...AND THAT WAY...
But—
HEY! WHAT'S THE USE OF ME BUYING BOUNCY STUDS IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOFT LOW SHOTS LIKE THAT?
GOAL! HEH! HEH!
SIDE FOOT
BWO 30.5.81

# BALL BOY

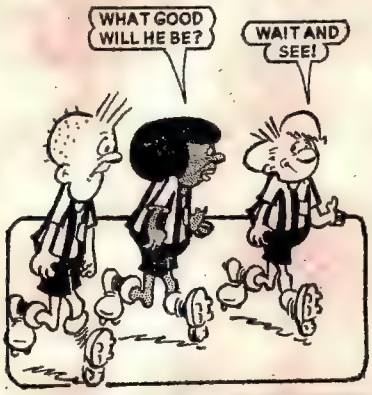
HOPE THE FANS DON'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE AT TODAY'S AWAY MATCH!

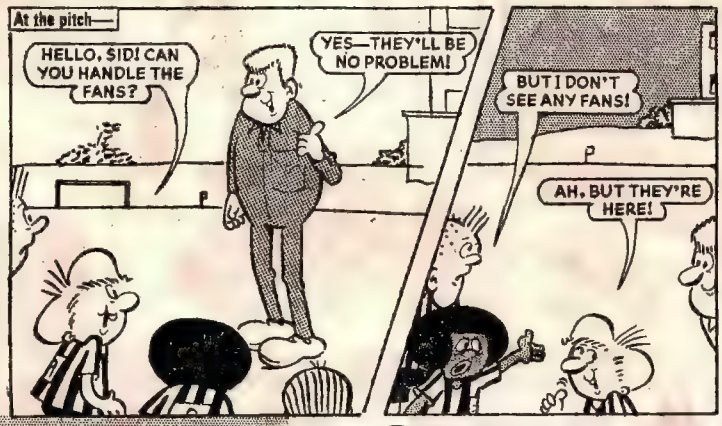
WILL THEY INVADE THE PITCH?
I DOUBT IT, BENJY!

DON'T WORRY—I'VE ASKED SOMEONE TO MEET US THERE!

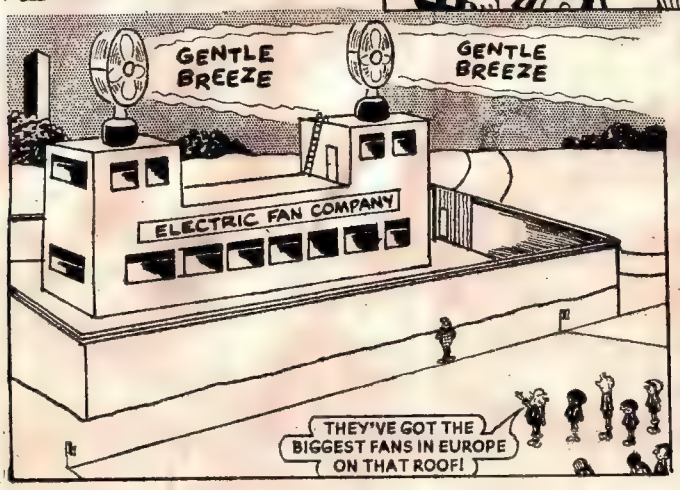

CAN HE CONTROL THE FANS?
HE SAYS HE CAN!

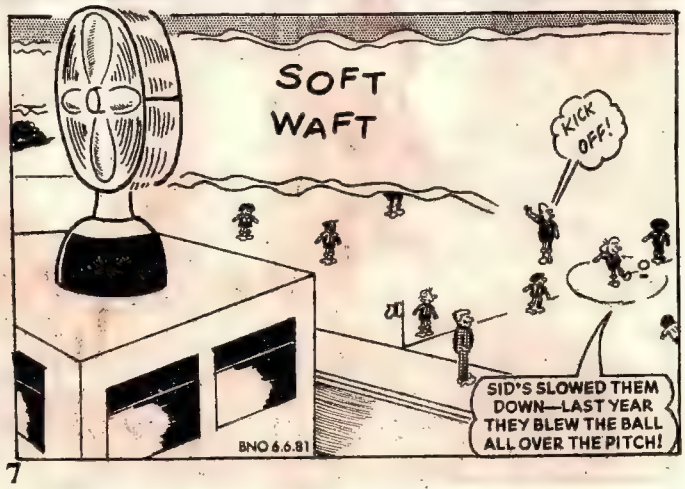
HE MUST BE A BIG BLOKE!
NO—HE'S QUITE SMALL!
IS HE A POLICEMAN?
NO—HE'S AN ENGINEER!


WHAT GOOD WILL HE BE?
WAIT AND SEE!

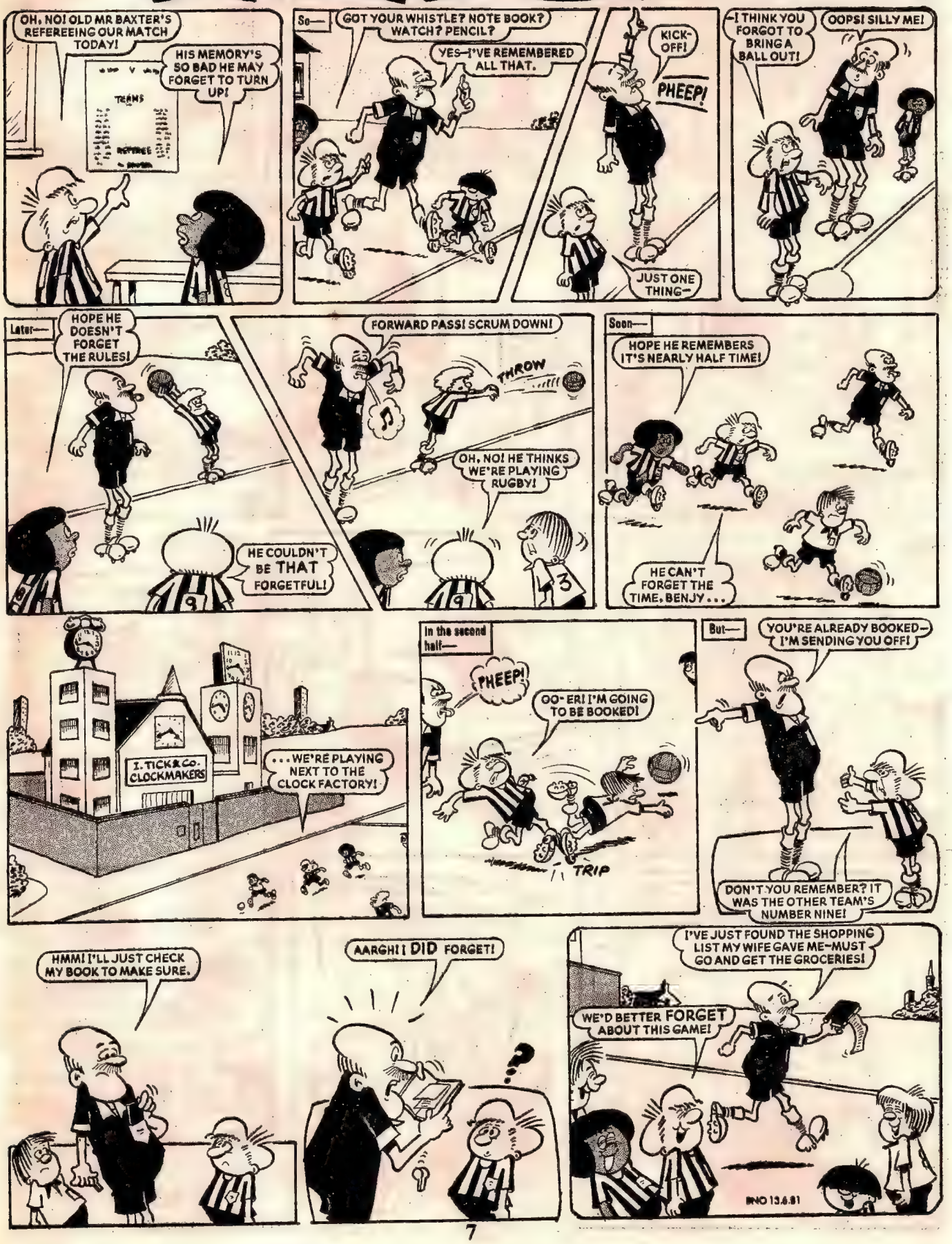

At the pitch—
HELLO, SID! CAN YOU HANDLE THE FANS?
YES—THEY'LL BE NO PROBLEM!
BUT I DON'T SEE ANY FANS!
AH, BUT THEY'RE HERE!

WE'RE PLAYING NEAR A CERTAIN FACTORY, BOYS!


GENTLE BREEZE
GENTLE BREEZE
ELECTRIC FAN COMPANY
THEY'VE GOT THE BIGGEST FANS IN EUROPE ON THAT ROOF!


SOFT WAFT
KICK OFF!
SID'S SLOWED THEM DOWN—LAST YEAR THEY BLEW THE BALL ALL OVER THE PITCH!
BNO 6.6.81

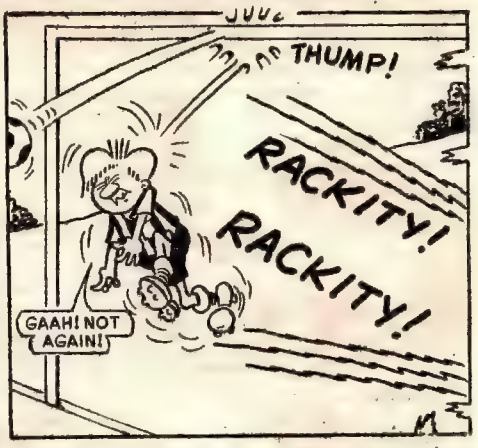
# BALL BOY


OH, NO! OLD MR BAXTER'S REFEREEING OUR MATCH TODAY!
HIS MEMORY'S SO BAD HE MAY FORGET TO TURN UP!
TEAMS
REFEREE
So—
GOT YOUR WHISTLE? NOTE BOOK? WATCH? PENCIL?
YES—I'VE REMEMBERED ALL THAT.
KICK-OFF!
PHEEP!
JUST ONE THING—
—I THINK YOU FORGOT TO BRING A BALL OUT!
OOPS! SILLY ME!
Later—
HOPE HE DOESN'T FORGET THE RULES!
HE COULDN'T BE THAT FORGETFUL!
FORWARD PASS! SCRUM DOWN!
THROW
OH, NO! HE THINKS WE'RE PLAYING RUGBY!
Soon—
HOPE HE REMEMBERS IT'S NEARLY HALF TIME!
HE CAN'T FORGET THE TIME, BENJY...
I. TICK & CO. CLOCKMAKERS
...WE'RE PLAYING NEXT TO THE CLOCK FACTORY!
In the second half—
PHEEP!
OO-ER! I'M GOING TO BE BOOKED!
TRIP
But—
YOU'RE ALREADY BOOKED—I'M SENDING YOU OFF!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? IT WAS THE OTHER TEAM'S NUMBER NINE!
HMM! I'LL JUST CHECK MY BOOK TO MAKE SURE.
AARGH! I DID FORGET!
I'VE JUST FOUND THE SHOPPING LIST MY WIFE GAVE ME—MUST GO AND GET THE GROCERIES!
WE'D BETTER FORGET ABOUT THIS GAME!
BNO 13.6.81

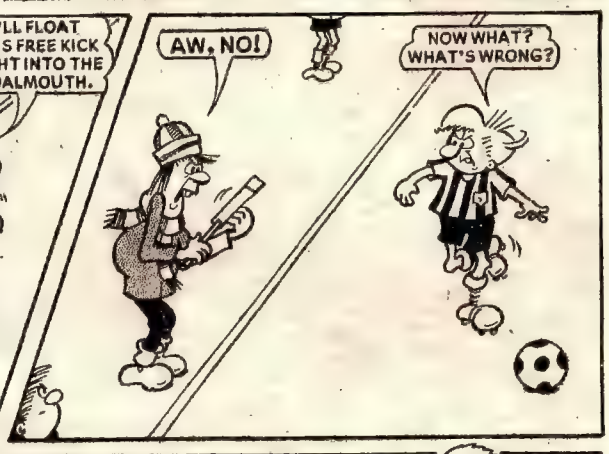
# BALL BOY

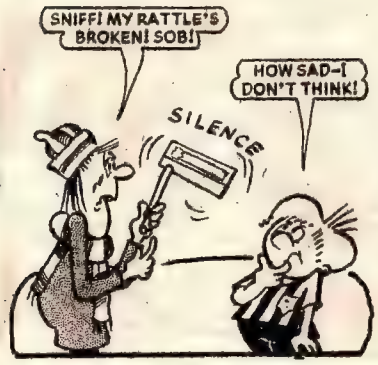
But—

Later—



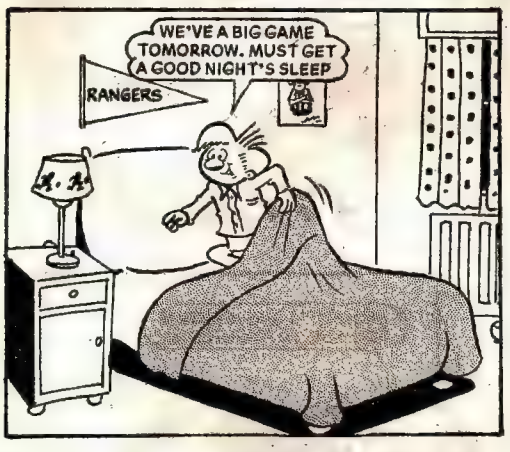
Second half—



Then—

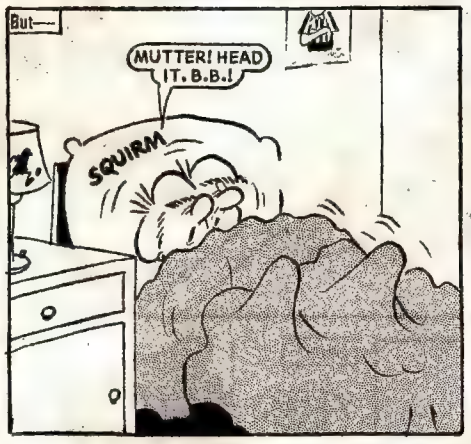
# BALL BOY

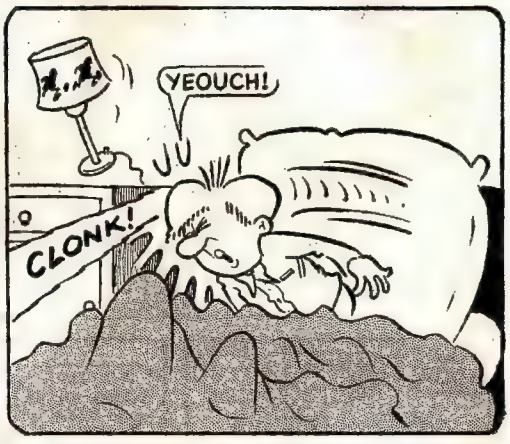

WE'VE A BIG GAME TOMORROW. MUST GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP
RANGERS

But—
MUTTER! MUTTER! SHOOT, BALL BOY!
RESTLESS

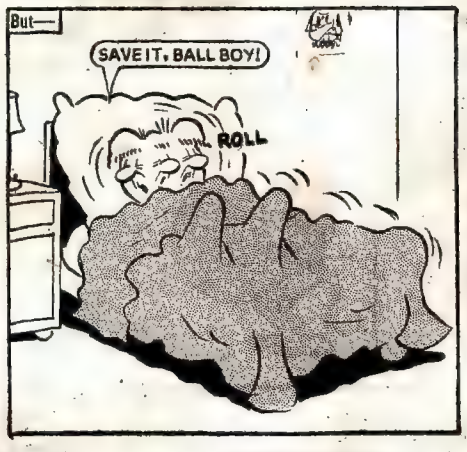
Soon—
BRR! I'VE KICKED OFF ALL THE COVERS!

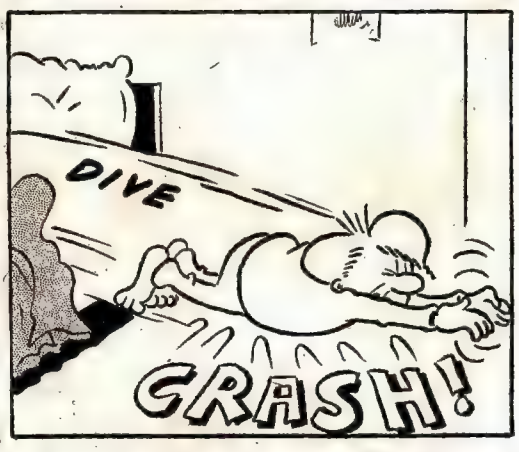
MUST GET BACK TO SLEEP.


But—
MUTTER! HEAD IT, B.B.!
SQUIRM


YEOUCH!
CLONK!

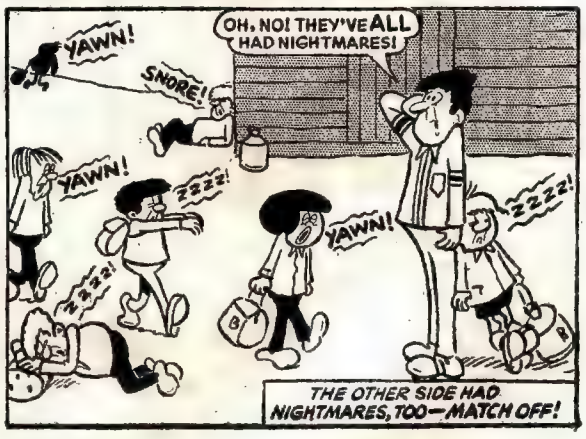
THIS IS AWFUL! I'VE GOT TO GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!


But—
SAVE IT, BALL BOY!
ROLL


DIVE
CRASH!

I'M GETTING WORSE, AND IT'S ALMOST MORNING!
BNO 27.6.81

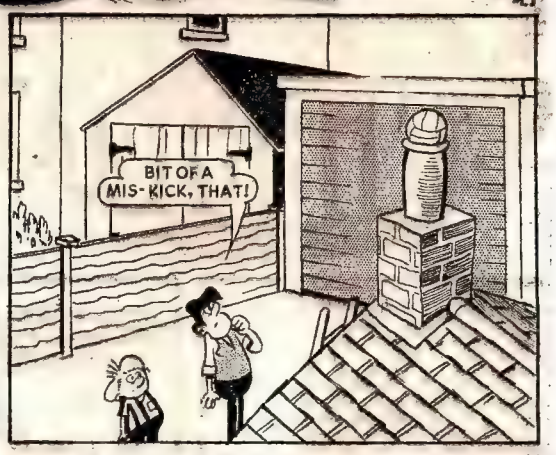
Next day—
GASP! LOOK AT B.B.—HE MUST HAVE HAD NIGHTMARES ABOUT THE BIG GAME!
DRESSING ROOMS
B.B.
TRAINER


YAWN!
SNORE!
OH, NO! THEY'VE ALL HAD NIGHTMARES!
YAWN!
ZZZZ!
YAWN!
ZZZZ!
ZZZZ!
THE OTHER SIDE HAD NIGHTMARES, TOO—MATCH OFF!

# BALL BOY

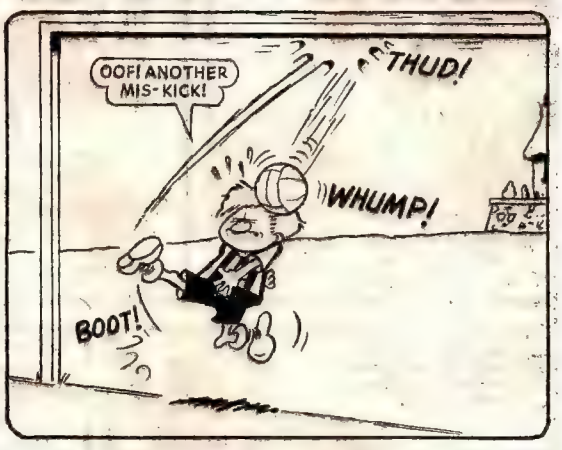
BOOT MY BALL TO ME, DAD—I'M OFF FOR A KICK-ABOUT.
SURE.

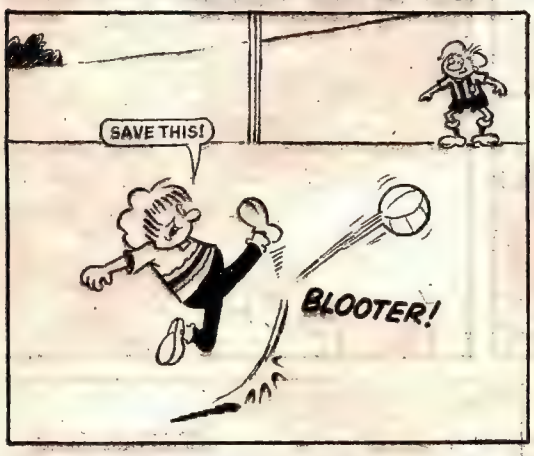
OOPS!
BOOT!

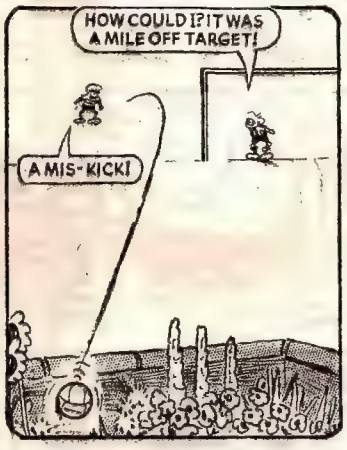

BIT OF A MIS-KICK, THAT!

So—
CATCH, SON.
THANKS, DAD—I'M OFF NOW!

TRY A FEW SHOTS AT ME, TOMMY.

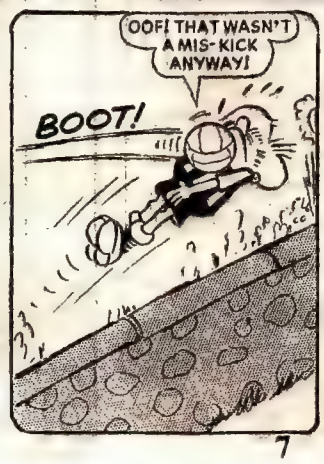

OOF! ANOTHER MIS-KICK!
THUD!
WHUMP!
BOOT!


SAVE THIS!
BLOOTER!


HOW COULD I? IT WAS A MILE OFF TARGET!
A MIS-KICK!

I'LL GET THE BALL BACK. I'M GETTING USED TO MIS-KICKS.

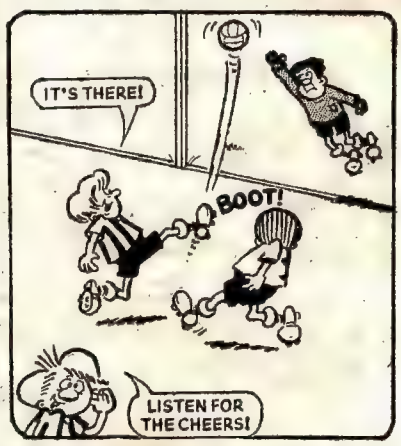
ANYBODY THERE? CAN I HAVE MY BALL BACK?

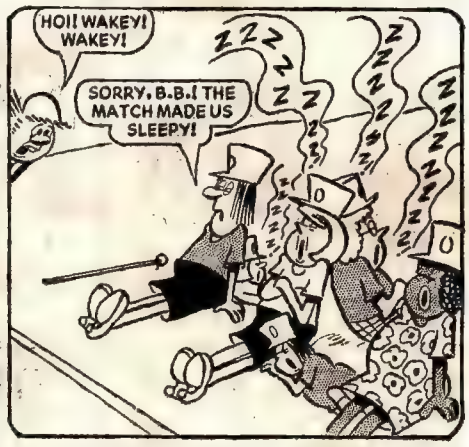

OOF! THAT WASN'T A MIS-KICK ANYWAY!
BOOT!

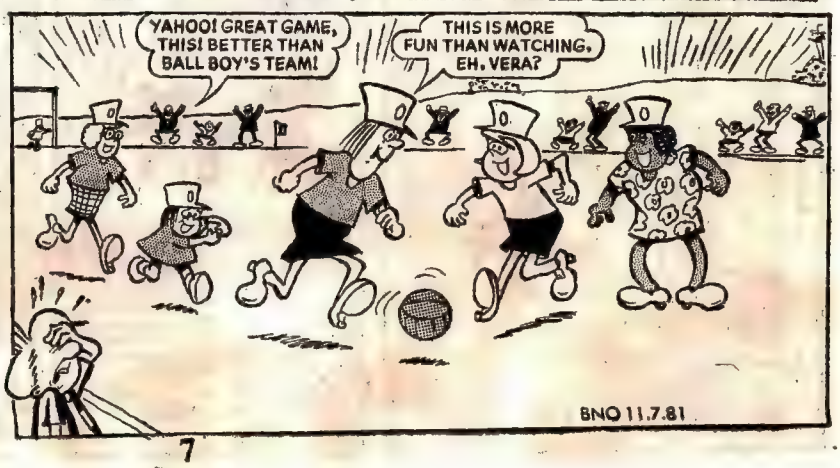
NO—IT WAS A MISS-KICK! KEEP YOUR BALL OUT OF MY FLOWER BEDS, YOU!
OK, MISS!
BNO 4.7.81

# BALL BOY

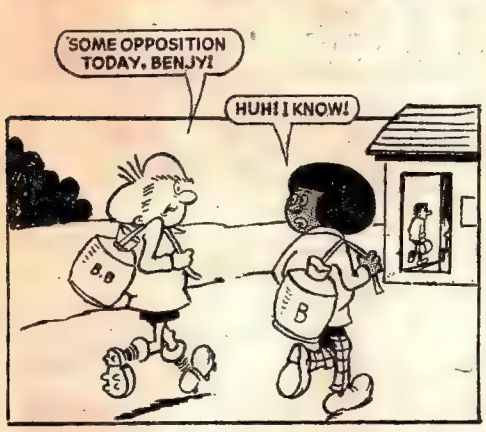
## DEAD SILENCE



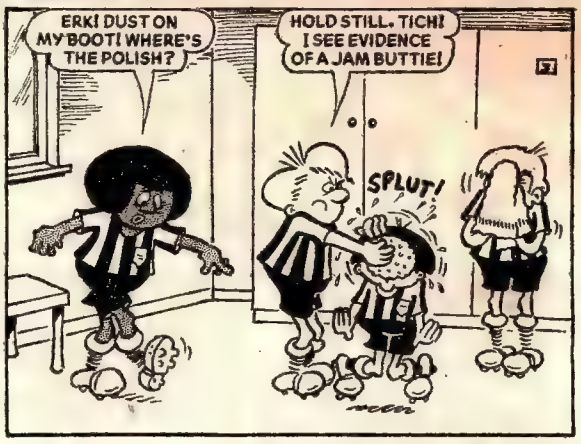




# BALL BOY


SOME OPPOSITION TODAY, BENJY!
HUH! I KNOW!

MUST BE SPOTLESS!
MAGIC SPONGE
TRAINER


ERK! DUST ON MY BOOT! WHERE'S THE POLISH?
HOLD STILL. TICH! I SEE EVIDENCE OF A JAM BUTTIE!
SPLUT!

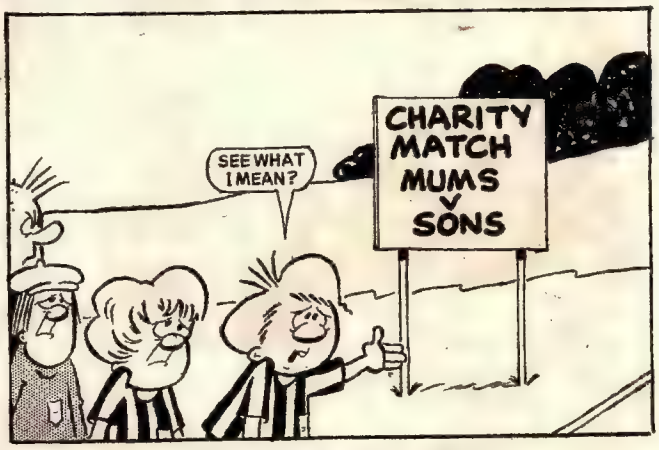
MUSTN'T HAVE A HAIR OUT OF PLACE!
MISSED ONE

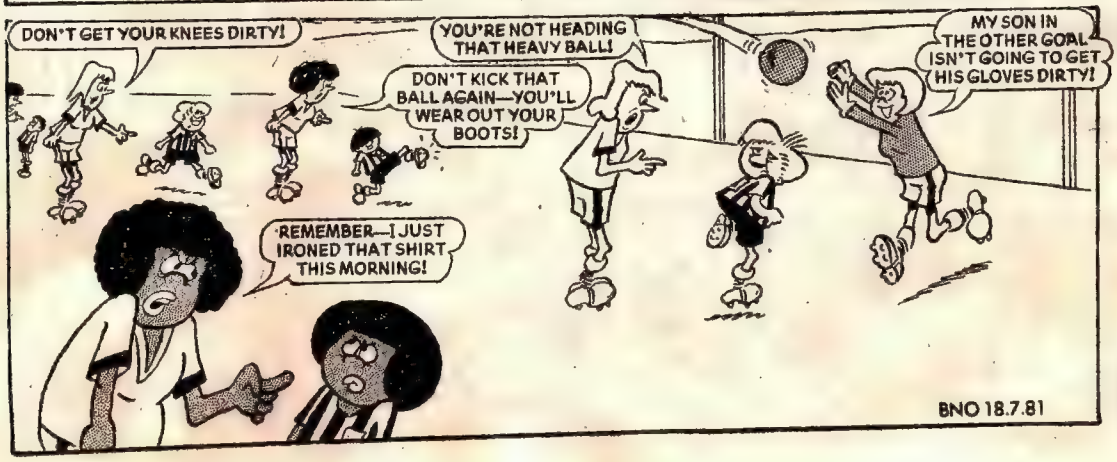
GOOD—MY SOCKS ARE ABSOLUTELY LEVEL!

GET YOUR SHIRT TUCKED IN. CAP STRAIGHTENED. GLOVES PULLED UP...
HUH!

READY TO GO, BOYS?
I SUPPOSE SO!

READER'S VOICE—
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LOT SO SMART BEFORE A GAME!
WELL—IT'S OUR OPPONENTS!


SEE WHAT I MEAN?
CHARITY MATCH MUMS v SONS

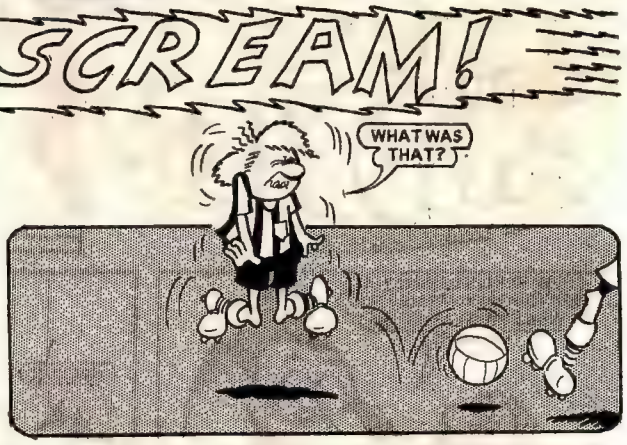

DON'T GET YOUR KNEES DIRTY!
YOU'RE NOT HEADING THAT HEAVY BALL!
DON'T KICK THAT BALL AGAIN—YOU'LL WEAR OUT YOUR BOOTS!
REMEMBER—I JUST IRONED THAT SHIRT THIS MORNING!
MY SON IN THE OTHER GOAL ISN'T GOING TO GET HIS GLOVES DIRTY!
BNO 18.7.81

After the game—
WE LOST 3-0, SO KEEP MUM ABOUT IT, READERS!

# BALL BOY

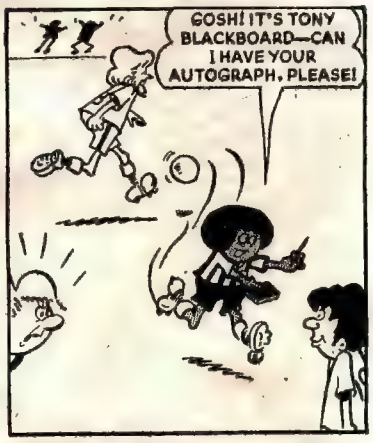
WE'RE PLAYING THE RADIO DISC JOCKEYS IN A CHARITY MATCH TODAY!

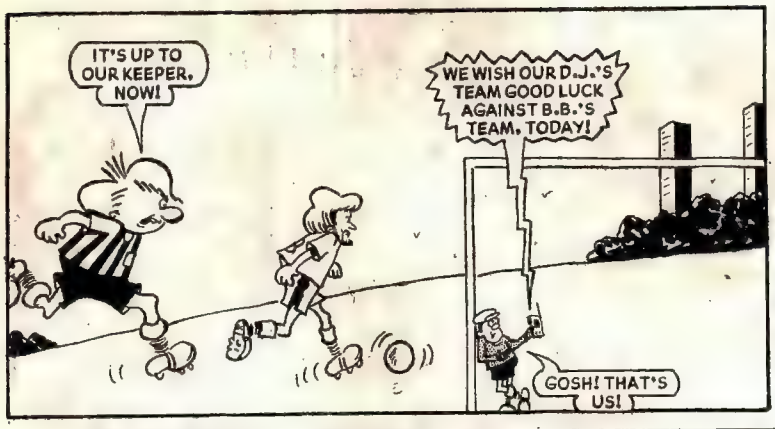
OFF I GO ON A SOLO RUN . . .


SCREAM!
WHAT WAS THAT?

HUH! IT'S BECAUSE ED NOELMONDS GOT THE BALL! PESKY FANS!

BUT GOOD OLD BENJY WILL STOP HIM!


GOSH! IT'S TONY BLACKBOARD—CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH, PLEASE!


IT'S UP TO OUR KEEPER, NOW!
WE WISH OUR D.J.'S TEAM GOOD LUCK AGAINST B.B.'S TEAM, TODAY!
GOSH! THAT'S US!

OOPS! WASN'T READY!
SCREAM!
OH, NO!
BOOT

I'VE A FEELING WE'RE IN FOR A BIG DEFEAT!

Next morning—
THIS RECORD IS ESPECIALLY FOR BALL BOY'S TEAM!
ON THE AIR
BNO 25.7.81

. . . WE GAVE THEM A RECORD 40-0 DEFEAT YESTERDAY!
SPLOP!
CORN FLAKES

# BALL BOY

Ball Boy has been invited to a factory to see football strips being made.

...AND THIS IS THE DYE FOR STRIPED JERSEYS!

EH? GASP! CAN'T BE!

IT'S OK, B.B.—THIS IS A FALSE TOP! JUST A JOKE WE PLAY ON VISITORS!

HEH!

THIS WAY, B.B..

WHAT KIND OF STRIPS ARE THESE?

CLANK! CLANK!

CLANK! CLANK!

METAL ONES!

GASP!

THEY'RE FOR BLOB STREET SCHOOL—THEY'RE PLAYING AGAINST BASH STREET SCHOOL NEXT WEEK!

CLANK! CLANK!

OUR SOCK-MAKING MACHINE.

WEE

VERY LARGE

MEDIUM

INTERESTING.

I'M A BIT TIRED! I'LL HAVE A LEAN!

VERY LARGE

PRESS!

Then—

GULP!

GOSH! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THEM!

HUH! WE'LL HAVE TO THROW THESE OUT.

I'LL TAKE THEM!

And—

THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL "SOCKER"! HAW! HAW!

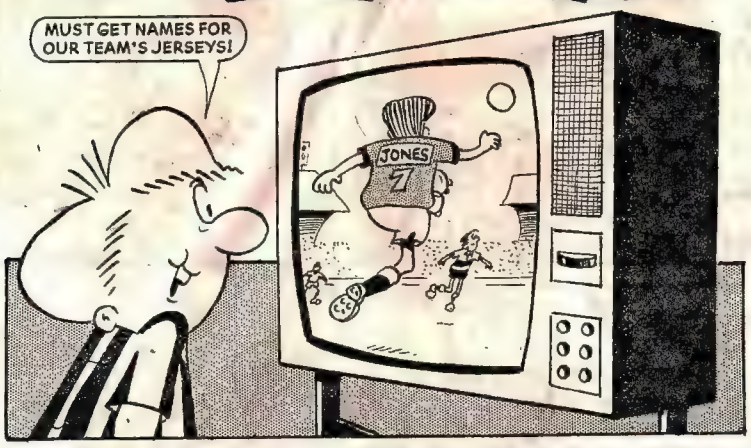
FOUL!

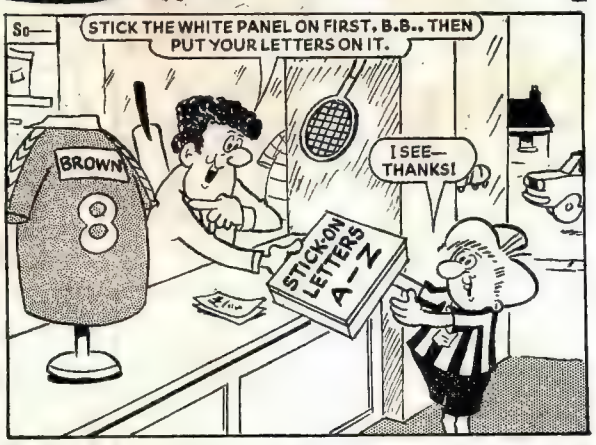
BOOT!

TICH

BNO 1.8.81

# BALL BOY


MUST GET NAMES FOR OUR TEAM'S JERSEYS!
JONES
7


So—
STICK THE WHITE PANEL ON FIRST, B.B., THEN PUT YOUR LETTERS ON IT.
BROWN
8
I SEE— THANKS!
STICK-ON LETTERS A–Z

So—
IT LOOKS GREAT, LADS!
B.B.
BENJY
DIMMY
TICH

BALL BOY, CAN I AND MY BROTHERS HAVE A TRIAL?
B.B.

So—
DRIBBLE
HE'S REALLY GOOD!
B.B.

Later—
NOW I'VE SEEN THE THREE OF YOU PLAYING. I CAN ONLY SIGN YOUR BROTHER– SORRY, YOU TWO!

RIGHT–I'LL GET YOU A STRIP. WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SO I CAN STICK IT ON THE SHIRT?
IT'S . . .
B.B.

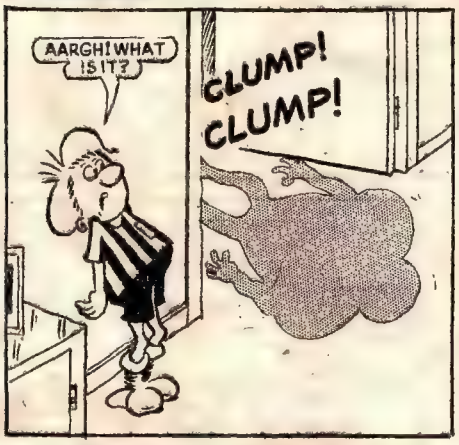
Then—
HMM! A PROBLEM!
COME BACK, BOYS– I'VE CHANGED MY MIND!
B.B.

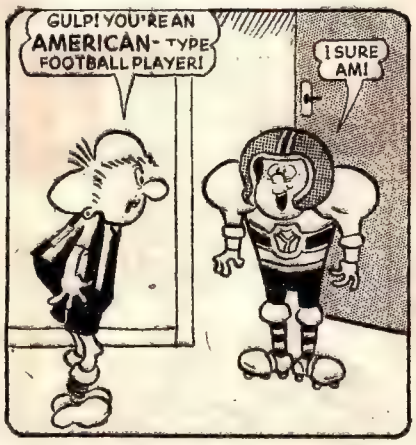
WANT TO SEE WHY I CALLED BACK THE OTHER TWO? TURN ROUND, BOYS!
BNO 15.8.81

THAT NAME WOULDN'T FIT ON ONE JERSEY!
HUNTING-
-TON-
SMYTHE

# BALL BOY

COO! MY AMERICAN COUSIN HAS ARRIVED FOR A VISIT!
US OF A
FANCY A GAME OF FOOTBALL, ELMER?
SURE—I'VE EVEN GOT MY OWN GEAR.
SOME AMERICAN TEAMS HAVE REALLY FLASHY JERSEYS.


AARGH! WHAT IS IT?
CLUMP! CLUMP!

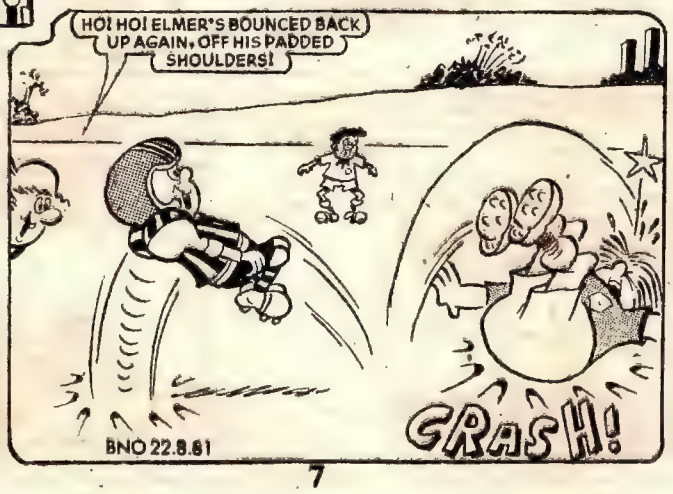

GULP! YOU'RE AN AMERICAN-TYPE FOOTBALL PLAYER!
I SURE AM!

Later—
WE'RE A MAN SHORT FOR TODAY'S GAME, B.B.!
I KNOW—MY AMERICAN COUSIN'S TAKING HIS PLACE—ELMER!

HAW! HAW! GLAD WE DON'T HAVE TO WEAR HELMETS AND PADDING!

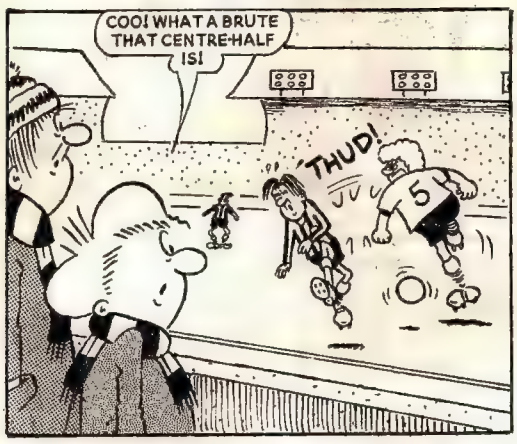
OOH! THERE'S NO STOPPING THAT BIG CENTRE!
READY FOR ATTACK (AMERICAN FOOTBALL STYLE)
THIS IS TOO EASY!
OOF!

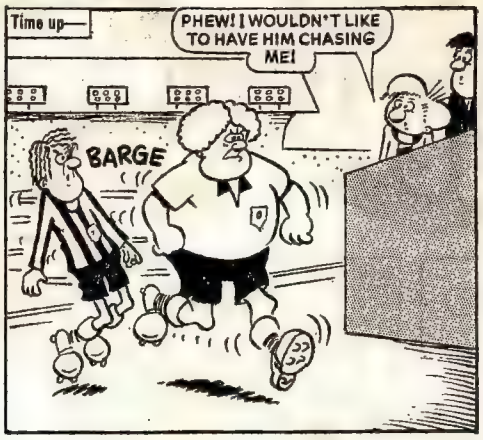
YURGH!
THUD!


HO! HO! ELMER'S BOUNCED BACK UP AGAIN, OFF HIS PADDED SHOULDERS!
CRASH!
BNO 22.8.81

WOW! WHERE CAN WE GET ALL THAT GREAT GEAR?
THEY'VE CHANGED THEIR TUNE, READERS!

# BALL BOY


COO! WHAT A BRUTE THAT CENTRE-HALF IS!
THUD!

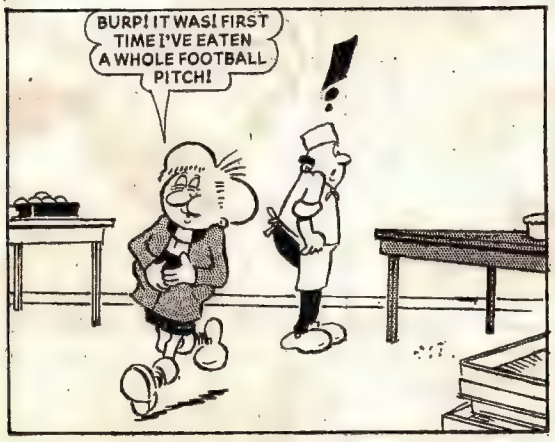

Time up—
PHEW! I WOULDN'T LIKE TO HAVE HIM CHASING ME!
BARGE

Later—
BAKERY
I'VE TO COLLECT THE BIRTHDAY CAKE MUM'S GETTING MADE FOR ME.
FRESH BREAD DAILY

IS MY CAKE READY YET?
IT'S OVER ON THAT TABLE—YOUR MUM'S ALREADY PAID FOR IT.

GREAT! THIS MUST BE MINE!

THE ICING TASTED LOVELY! WONDER IF THE REST'S AS GOOD?


BURP! IT WAS! FIRST TIME I'VE EATEN A WHOLE FOOTBALL PITCH!
!

BALL BOY, YOU TOOK THE WRONG CAKE—HERE'S YOURS!
Happy Birthday Son

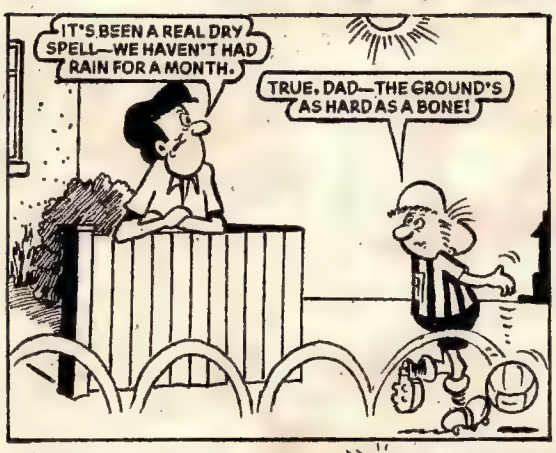
ERK! WHOSE DID I EAT?
ER—HIS!
Happy Birthday Son

WHO SCOFFED THE CAKE MY OLD MUM HAD MADE FOR ME?
BNO 29.8.81

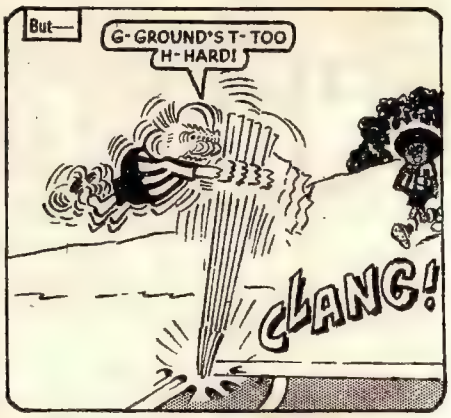
REMEMBER I SAID I WOULDN'T LIKE THAT BIG CENTRE-HALF CHASING ME . . ?

. . . WELL, I DON'T! HELP!
ZOOM!

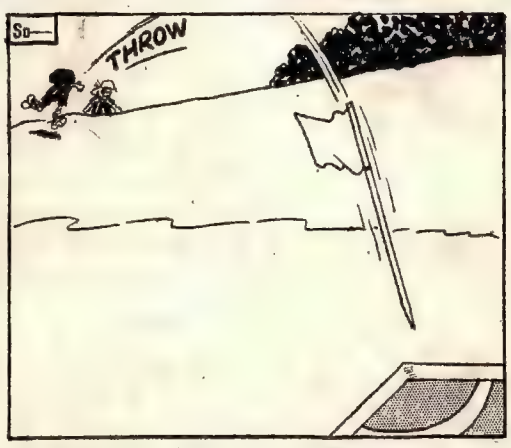
# BALL BOY

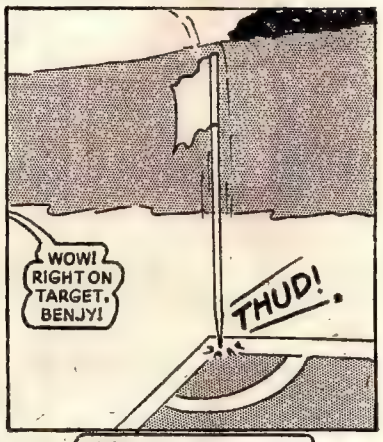

IT'S BEEN A REAL DRY SPELL—WE HAVEN'T HAD RAIN FOR A MONTH.
TRUE, DAD—THE GROUND'S AS HARD AS A BONE!

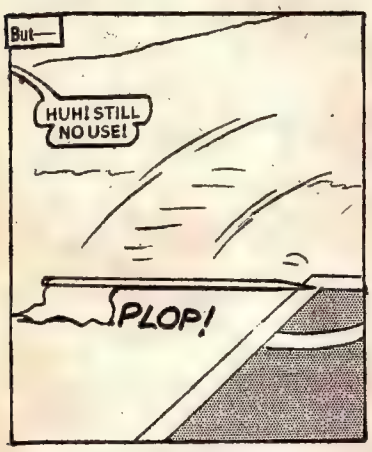
Before the match—
I'D BETTER STICK THE CORNER FLAG IN.


But—
G-GROUND'S T-TOO H-HARD!
CLANG!

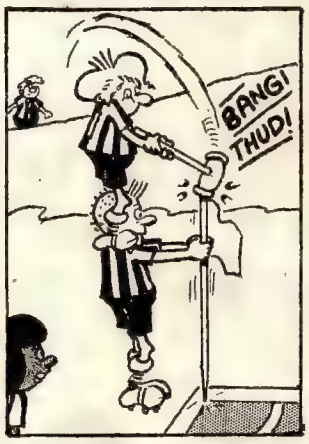
I'LL DO IT, B.B.—I'M A KEEN JAVELIN THROWER!


So—
THROW

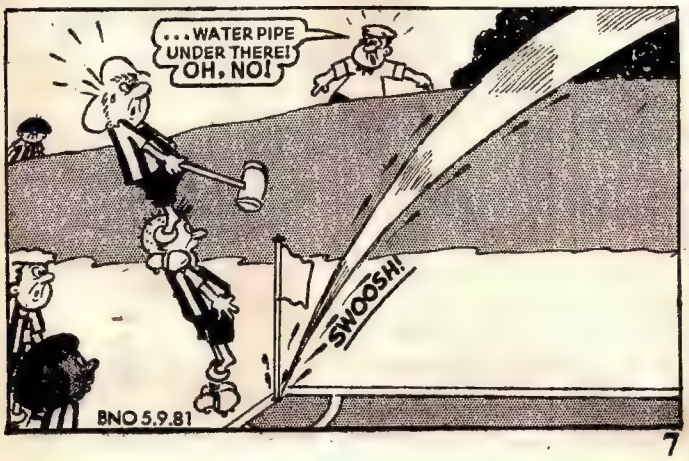

WOW! RIGHT ON TARGET, BENJY!
THUD!


But—
HUH! STILL NO USE!
PLOP!

Then—
I MEAN BUSINESS THIS TIME!

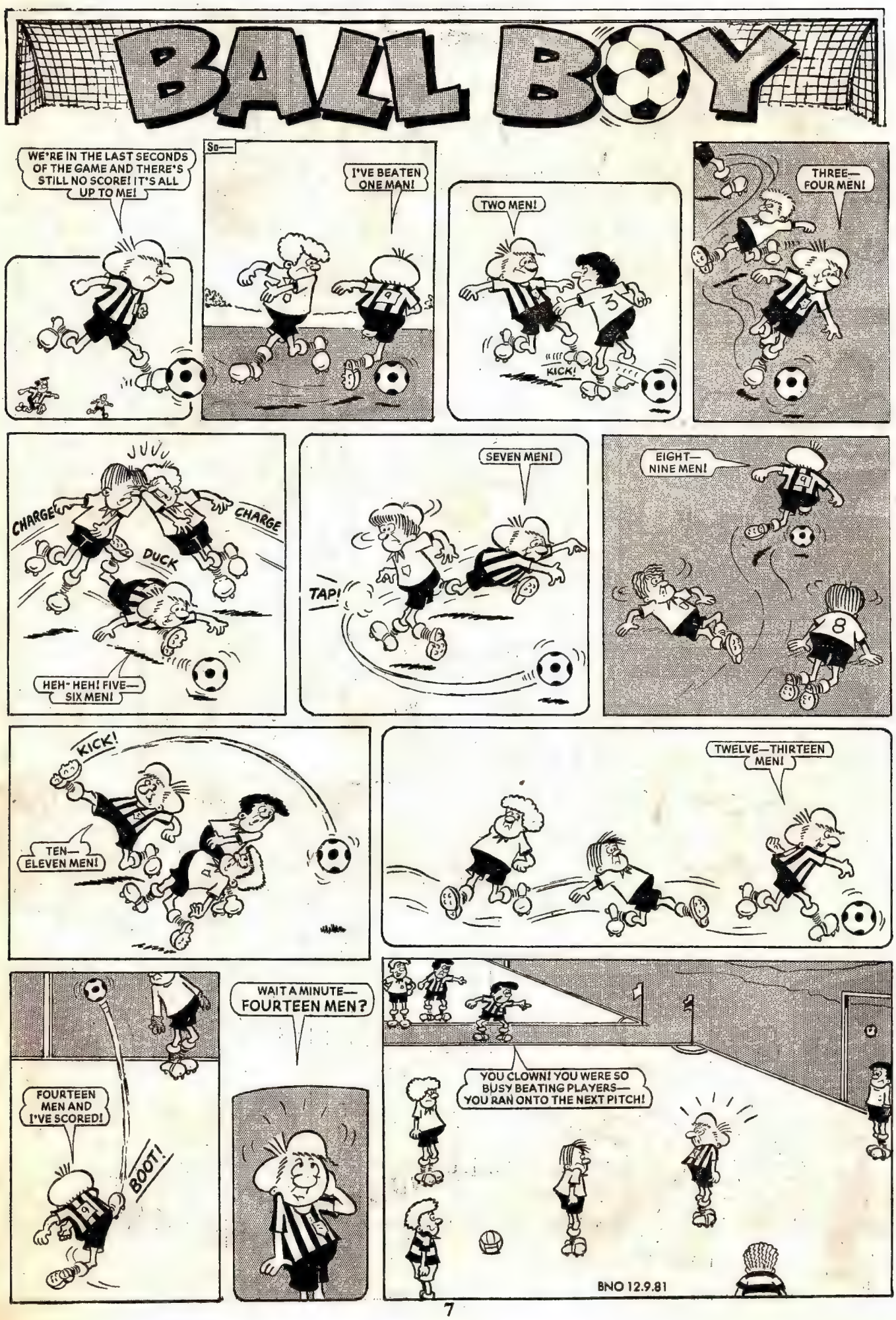

BANG!
THUD!

HOI! BALL BOY! LOOK OUT! THERE'S A...
THUMP!
BANG!

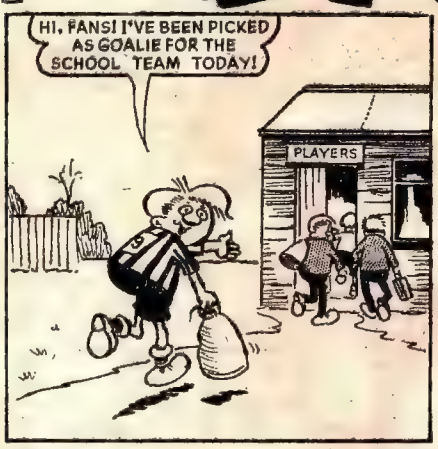

...WATER PIPE UNDER THERE! OH, NO!
SWOOSH!
BNO 5.9.81

Soon—
THE GAME'S OFF, DAD—THE GROUND'S FLOODED!
EH? IN THIS WEATHER?

# BALL BOY


WE'RE IN THE LAST SECONDS OF THE GAME AND THERE'S STILL NO SCORE! IT'S ALL UP TO ME!
SO—
I'VE BEATEN ONE MAN!
TWO MEN!
KICK!
THREE—FOUR MEN!
CHARGE!
CHARGE
DUCK
HEH-HEH! FIVE—SIX MEN!
SEVEN MEN!
TAP!
EIGHT—NINE MEN!
KICK!
TEN—ELEVEN MEN!
TWELVE—THIRTEEN MEN!
FOURTEEN MEN AND I'VE SCORED!
BOOT!
WAIT A MINUTE—FOURTEEN MEN?
YOU CLOWN! YOU WERE SO BUSY BEATING PLAYERS—YOU RAN ONTO THE NEXT PITCH!
BNO 12.9.81

# BALL BOY


HI, FANS! I'VE BEEN PICKED AS GOALIE FOR THE SCHOOL TEAM TODAY!
PLAYERS

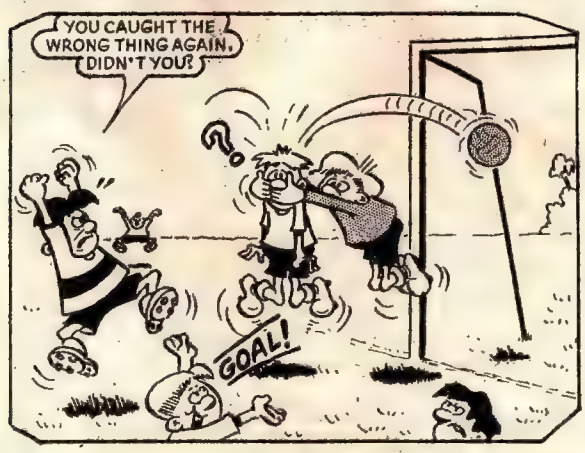
THIS'LL KEEP THE SUN OUT OF YOUR EYES, BALL-BOY.
SPORTS MASTER

GULP! WHY DID I PICK HIM AS GOALKEEPER?
OOPS! BUTTER-FINGERS!

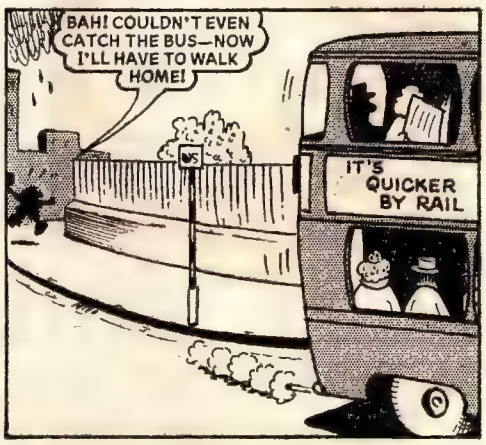
Soon—
CATCH IT, GOALIE!

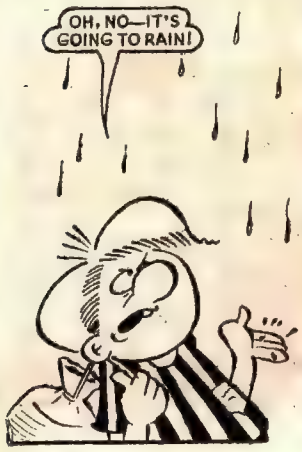
OO-ER! CAUGHT THE WRONG THING!
GOAL!

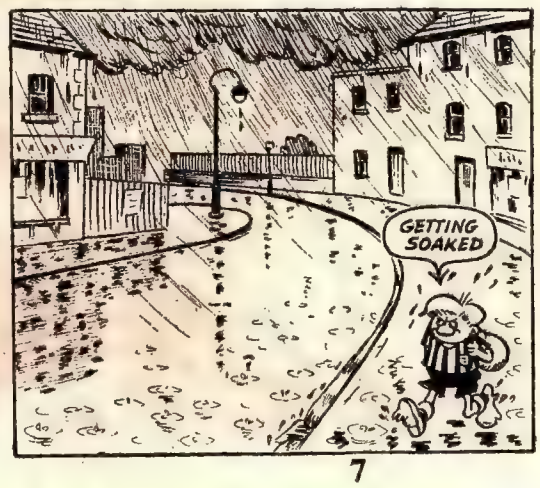
CATCH THAT ONE, BALL-BOY!


YOU CAUGHT THE WRONG THING AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?
GOAL!

After the game—
I DIDN'T CATCH A THING ALL DAY. NOW I'LL HAVE TO HURRY FOR MY BUS.

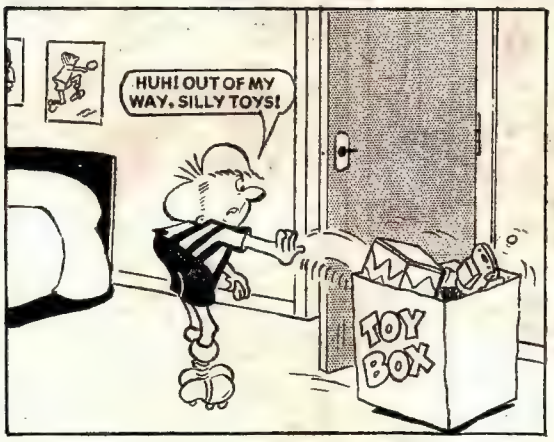

BAH! COULDN'T EVEN CATCH THE BUS—NOW I'LL HAVE TO WALK HOME!
IT'S QUICKER BY RAIL


OH, NO—IT'S GOING TO RAIN!

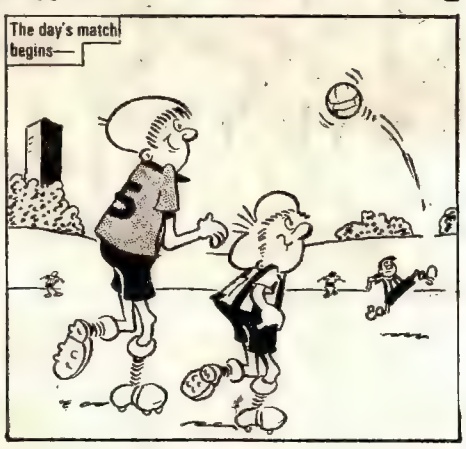

GETTING SOAKED

SNIFFLE! I CAUGHT SOMETHING AT LAST, PALS — A PESKY COLD!
BNO 19.9.81

# BALL BOY


HUH! OUT OF MY WAY, SILLY TOYS!
TOY BOX

I DON'T GO NEAR MY OLD TOY-BOX NOW I'M A FOOTBALL STAR.

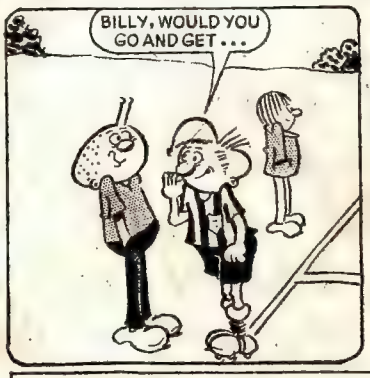

The day's match begins—

NOD
HUH! I'M NOT GOING TO WIN MANY HIGH BALLS TODAY!
JUMP

At half time—
I'VE AN IDEA!
DUH! WHY CAN'T WE GET BANANAS FOR A CHANGE?

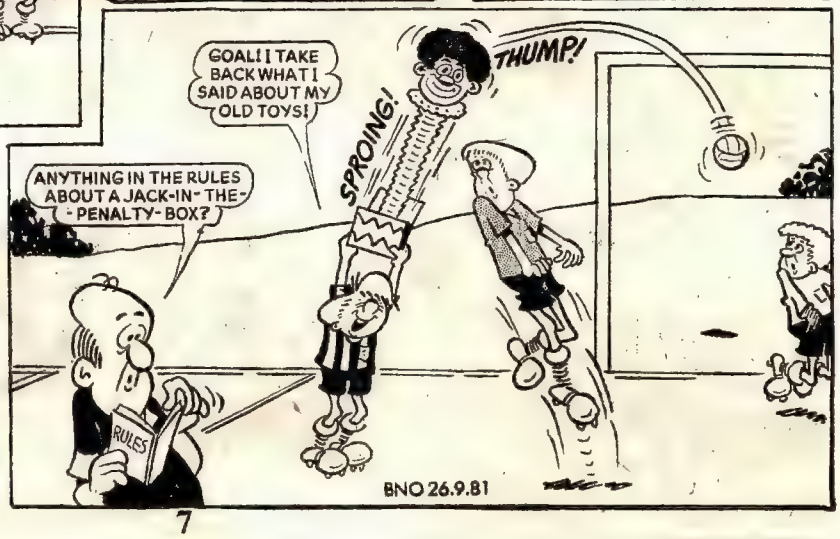
Second half—
YOURS, BALL BOY!
BOOT

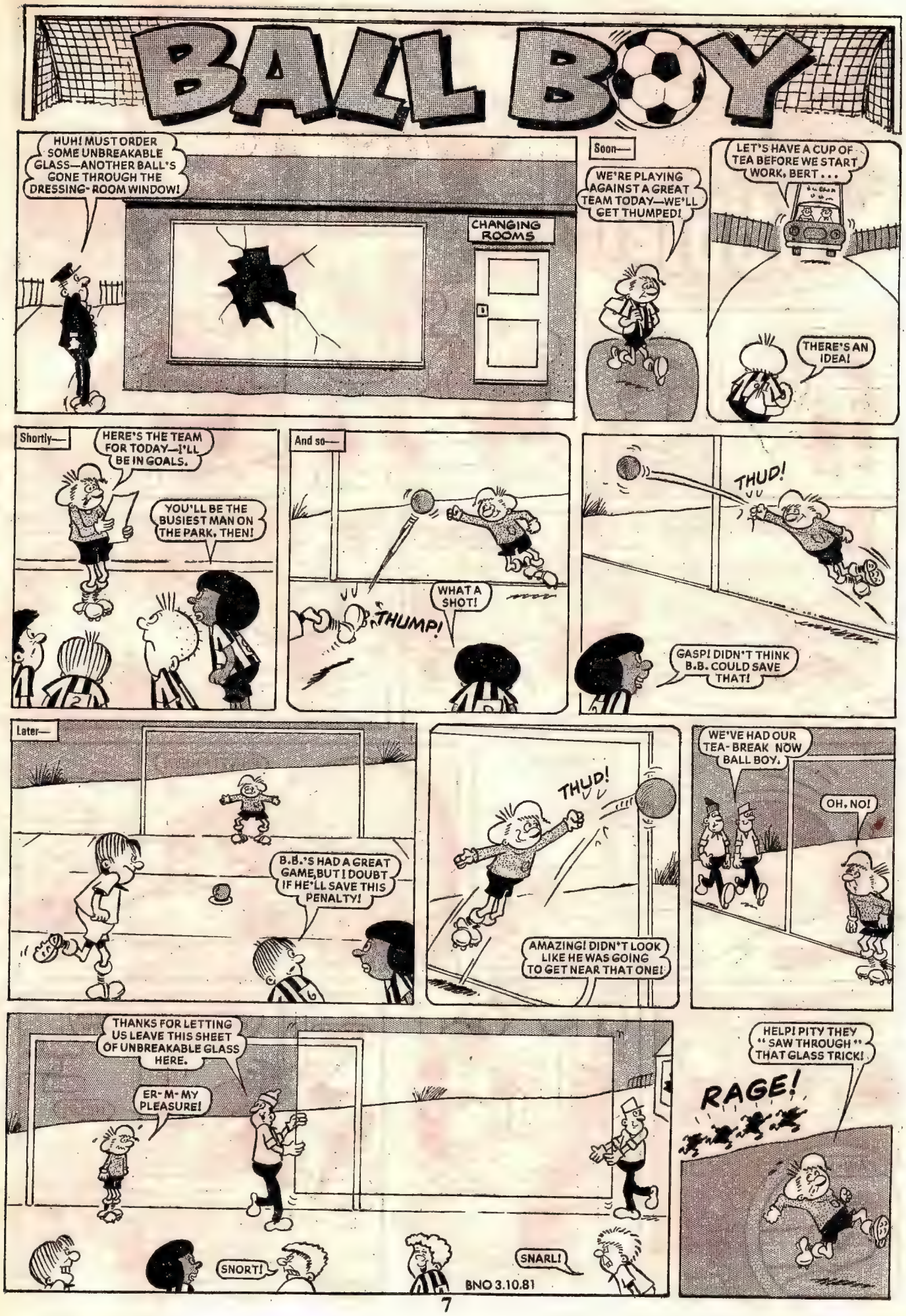
EVEN THE ORANGE BOX DIDN'T HELP!


BILLY, WOULD YOU GO AND GET . . .

Soon—
I'LL BEAT YOU TO THE NEXT HIGH BALL.
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

HERE COMES A HIGH LOB!


ANYTHING IN THE RULES ABOUT A JACK-IN-THE-PENALTY-BOX?
RULES
GOAL! I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID ABOUT MY OLD TOYS!
SPROING!
THUMP!
BNO 26.9.81

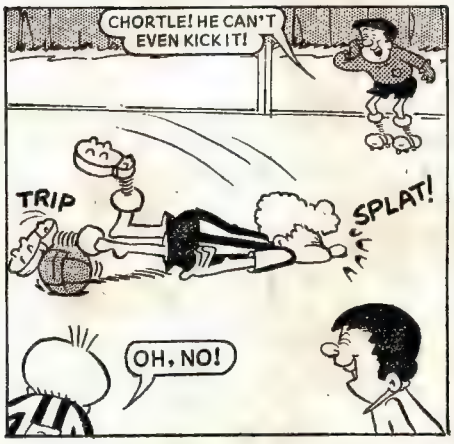

BALL BOY
HUH! MUST ORDER SOME UNBREAKABLE GLASS—ANOTHER BALL'S GONE THROUGH THE DRESSING-ROOM WINDOW!
CHANGING ROOMS
Soon—
WE'RE PLAYING AGAINST A GREAT TEAM TODAY—WE'LL GET THUMPED!
LET'S HAVE A CUP OF TEA BEFORE WE START WORK, BERT . . .
THERE'S AN IDEA!
Shortly—
HERE'S THE TEAM FOR TODAY—I'LL BE IN GOALS.
YOU'LL BE THE BUSIEST MAN ON THE PARK, THEN!
And so—
THUMP!
WHAT A SHOT!
THUD!
GASP! DIDN'T THINK B.B. COULD SAVE THAT!
Later—
B.B.'S HAD A GREAT GAME, BUT I DOUBT IF HE'LL SAVE THIS PENALTY!
THUD!
AMAZING! DIDN'T LOOK LIKE HE WAS GOING TO GET NEAR THAT ONE!
WE'VE HAD OUR TEA-BREAK NOW BALL BOY.
OH, NO!
THANKS FOR LETTING US LEAVE THIS SHEET OF UNBREAKABLE GLASS HERE.
ER-M-MY PLEASURE!
SNORT!
SNARL!
BNO 3.10.81
HELP! PITY THEY "SAW THROUGH" THAT GLASS TRICK!
RAGE!

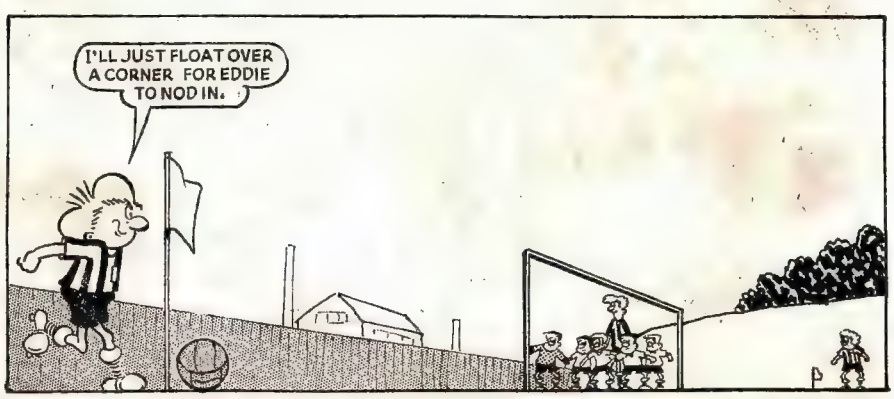
# BALL BOY

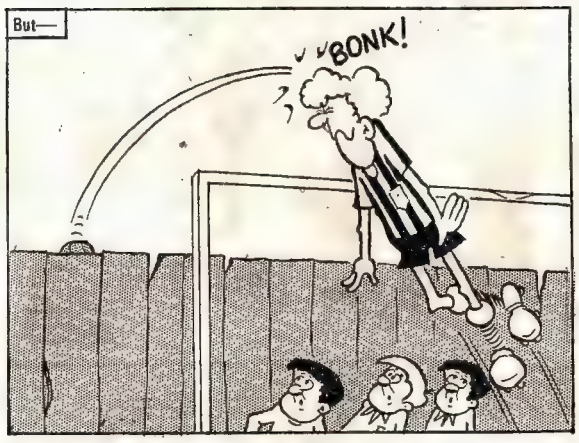
WE'VE GOT A NEW PLAYER TODAY.

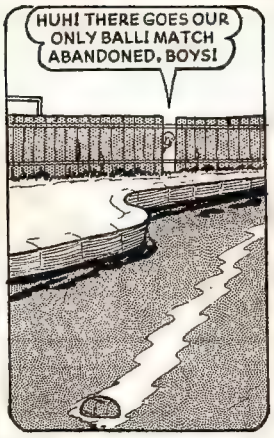
MEET BIG EDDIE.

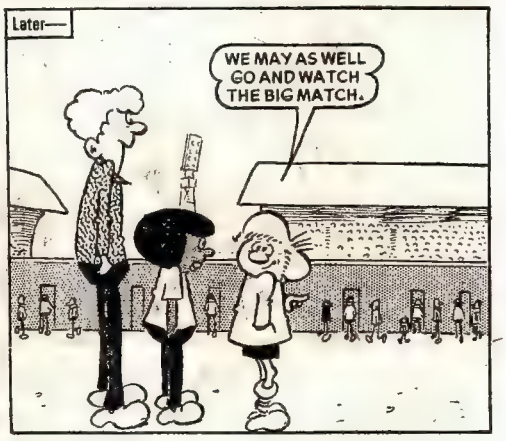
AN OPEN GOAL! SCORE, EDDIE!


CHORTLE! HE CAN'T EVEN KICK IT!
TRIP
SPLAT!
OH, NO!


Later—
I'LL JUST FLOAT OVER A CORNER FOR EDDIE TO NOD IN.

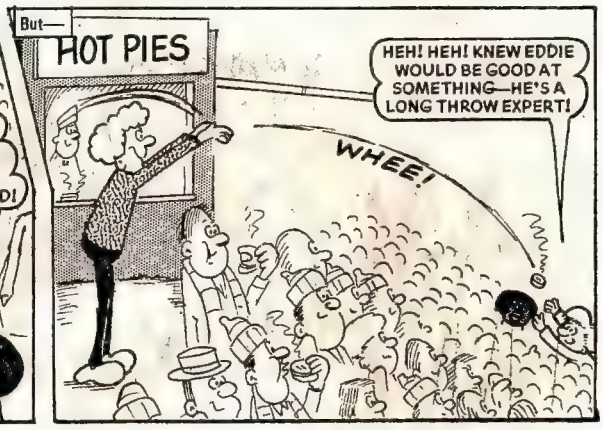

But—
BONK!


HUH! THERE GOES OUR ONLY BALL! MATCH ABANDONED, BOYS!


Later—
WE MAY AS WELL GO AND WATCH THE BIG MATCH.

Inside—
WE MIGHT GET A FEW TIPS, HERE.
BNO 10.10.81

Half time—
HOT PIES
IF WE GO FOR PIES, THEY'LL BE COLD BY THE TIME WE GET BACK THROUGH THE CROWD!


But—
HOT PIES
HEH! HEH! KNEW EDDIE WOULD BE GOOD AT SOMETHING—HE'S A LONG THROW EXPERT!
WHEE!

# BALL BOY

THAT SON OF MINE'S GOT AS MANY FOOTBALLS AS TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR!
I'LL HAVE AN EGG FOR BREAKFAST.
But—
HUH! CAN'T HARD BOIL THIS! HE'S ALWAYS LEAVING FOOTBALLS LYING AROUND!
MUST GET ON WITH SOME KNITTING.
NEED A BALL OF WHITE WOOL...
...BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO KNIT WITH THIS!
IT'S TURNED A BIT CHILLY—I'LL GET SOME COAL IN.
So—
I'M TEMPTED TO LIGHT THE FIRE WITH THIS!
Just then—
MUM! MUM!
BNO 17.10.81
I'M NEEDING SOME NEW FOOTBALLS! LOOK—THE BOX THEY'RE KEPT IN IS EMPTY!
FOOTBALLS
SCREAM!

# BALL BOY

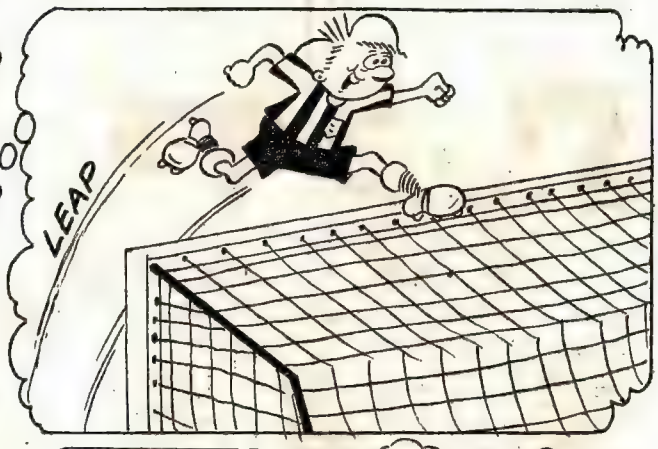
IS THAT YOUR TROPHY, BALL BOY?
READER'S VOICE
EH?

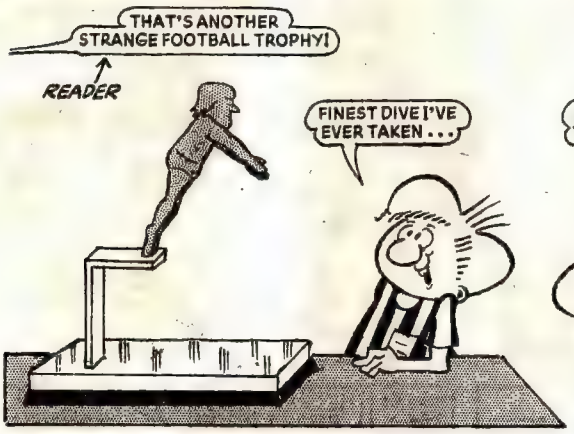

ER—YES. IT IS! AHEM!
READER
WHY HAS IT GOT SKATES ON?


EM, THE PITCH WAS SO ICY I HAD TO WEAR SKATES. SCORED THE WINNER, I DID!
SLIP
SLIP

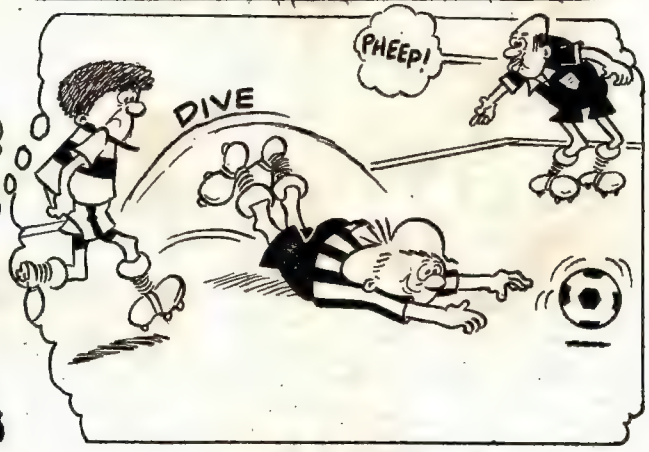
SURELY THAT'S NOT A FOOTBALL TROPHY, B.B.!
READER'S VOICE
ER—IT IS. I'D JUST SCORED A GREAT GOAL . . .

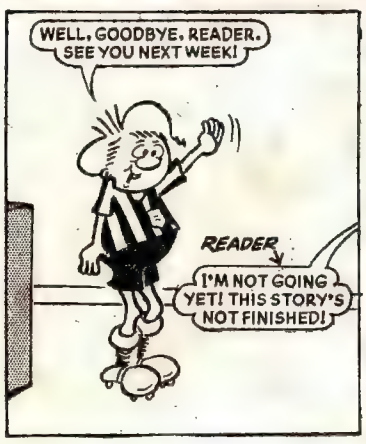
. . . GOT SO EXCITED I JUMPED OVER THE BAR!


LEAP

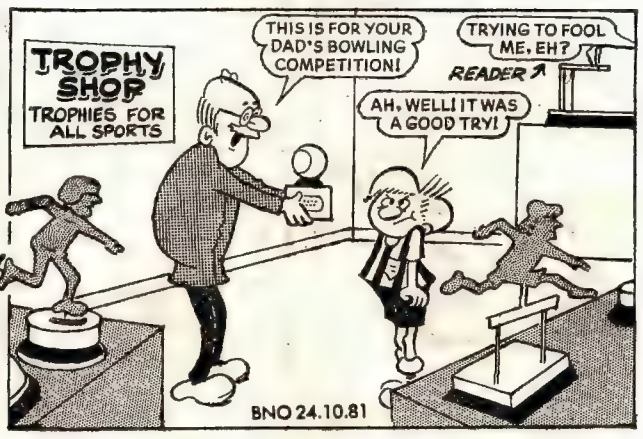

THAT'S ANOTHER STRANGE FOOTBALL TROPHY!
READER
FINEST DIVE I'VE EVER TAKEN . . .

. . . AND I SCORED FROM THE PENALTY!


PHEEP!
DIVE

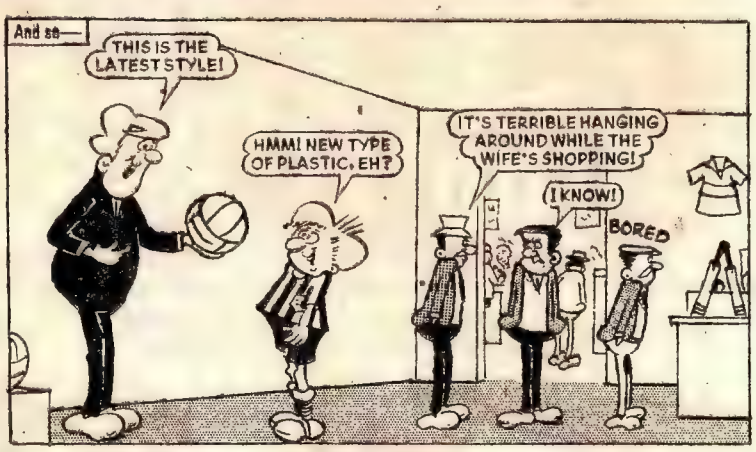

WELL, GOODBYE, READER. SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!
READER
I'M NOT GOING YET! THIS STORY'S NOT FINISHED!

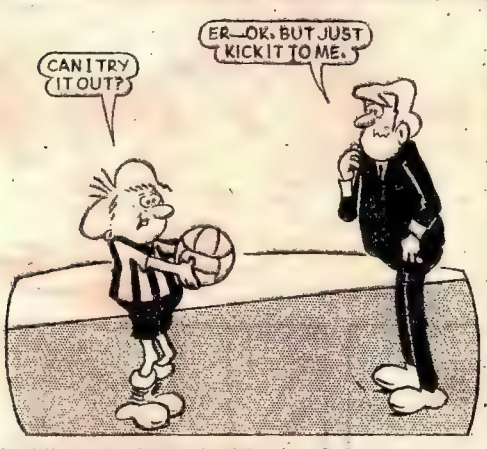
OH, IT'S YOU, B.B. —I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
READER
WHAT'S THIS? AREN'T WE IN YOUR HOUSE, B.B.?

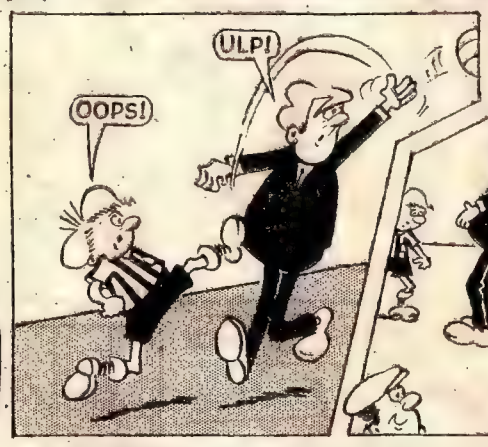

TROPHY SHOP
TROPHIES FOR ALL SPORTS
THIS IS FOR YOUR DAD'S BOWLING COMPETITION!
TRYING TO FOOL ME, EH?
READER
AH, WELL! IT WAS A GOOD TRY!
BNO 24.10.81

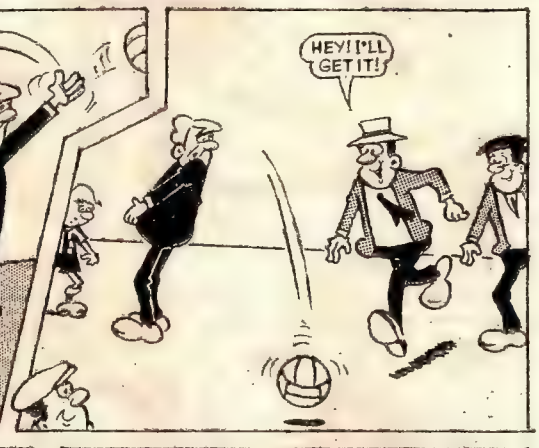
# BALL BOY

HUH! I HATE SHOPPING ON SATURDAYS!
I'M OFF TO THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT, FOR A NEW FOOTBALL!
HMM!
DEPARTMENT STORE
ROTTEN SHOPPING!


And so—
THIS IS THE LATEST STYLE!
HMM! NEW TYPE OF PLASTIC, EH?
IT'S TERRIBLE HANGING AROUND WHILE THE WIFE'S SHOPPING!
I KNOW!
BORED


CAN I TRY IT OUT?
ER—OK, BUT JUST KICK IT TO ME.


OOPS!
ULP!


HEY! I'LL GET IT!

GIVE ME THAT BALL BACK!
BEAT YOU TO IT!
ZIP

DON'T SPOIL OUR GAME!
HEY!

THIS IS GREAT!
GRR!
STORE SECURITY GUARD

PHEEP!

OOPS! FULL TIME! I GOT CARRIED AWAY, THERE!

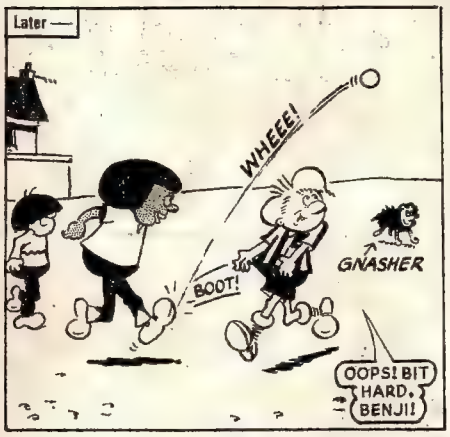
BEST SHOPPING DAY I'VE EVER HAD!
HUH! WHAT A BOTHER TO BUY A FOOTALL!
ENJOYED THAT!
THAT WAS GREAT!
BNO 31.10.81

# BALL BOY

I'M PLAYING CENTRE TODAY, FANS—BOUND TO SCORE!
PHEEP!
Soon—
THAT MUST BE A GOAL!
BIFF!
HEH! HEH! IT STUCK IN THE MUD!
SLUP!
PERFECT! ONLY THE 'KEEPER TO BEAT NOW!
I FANCY A GAME!
And—
I MUST SCORE THIS TIME!
SWERVE
PENALTY, REF!
NO, NO! PLAY ON!
BUMP!
The dog is "sent off"—
I'LL TRY MY FEARED CANNON-BALL SHOT!
HOP
HOP
GOAL!
SORRY—HALF-TIME! YOUR GOAL DOESN'T COUNT!
BOOT!
PHEEP!
Later—
BAH! ONLY SECONDS TO GO AND I STILL HAVEN'T SCORED. I COULD KICK MYSELF!
IN FACT, I WILL!
BNO 7.11.81
G-GOSH!
THUMP!
GOAL!
Full time—
SNORT! WE LOST ONE-NIL BECAUSE OF YOU!
I SCORED AFTER ALL, FANS—PUFF!—BUT AGAINST MY OWN TEAM!

# BALL BOY

GOSH, B.B.! THAT'S A SMASHING PICTURE OF YOU! WHO DREW IT?
READER'S VOICE
MY PAL, JIMMY BROWN — HE'S A GREAT ARTIST!

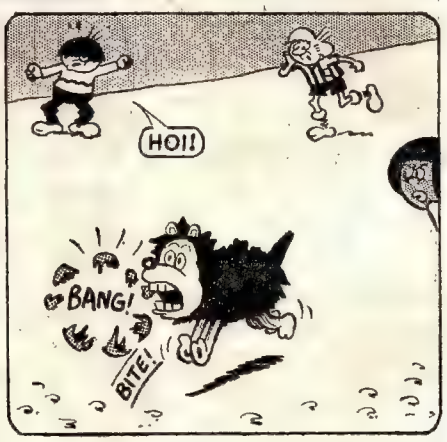

Later —
WHEEE!
BOOT!
GNASHER
OOPS! BIT HARD, BENJI!

I'LL GET IT!

OH, NO! THERE GOES BENJI'S BALL!
GNEEK!
BITE!
BANG!

HUH! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?
I'LL GO AND FETCH MY FOOTBALL, B.B..
OFF!

Shortly —
KICK!
I'LL STOP IT FOR THEM!


HOI!
BANG!
BITE!

WAIT THERE — I'LL GO HOME FOR MY BALL.
HUMPH!

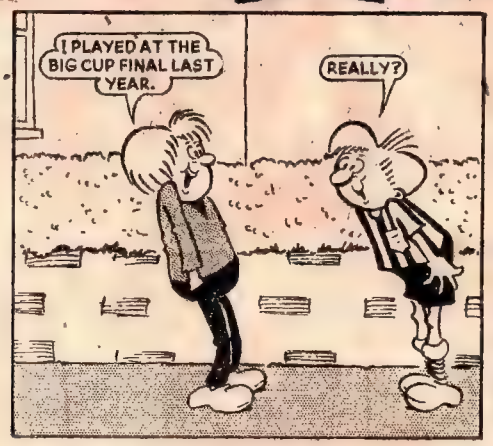
So —
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T RISK MY BALL WITH GNASHER AROUND. WAIT — I'VE AN IDEA.

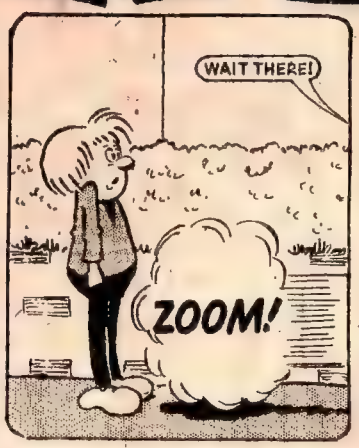
Soon —
BOOT!
SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR BALL, B.B.!

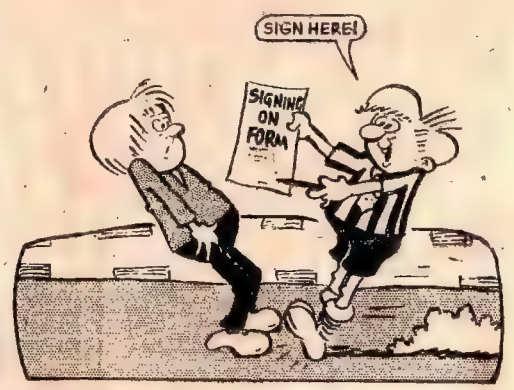
But —
OH! I'D BETTER NOT TOUCH THIS ONE!
SCREECH!

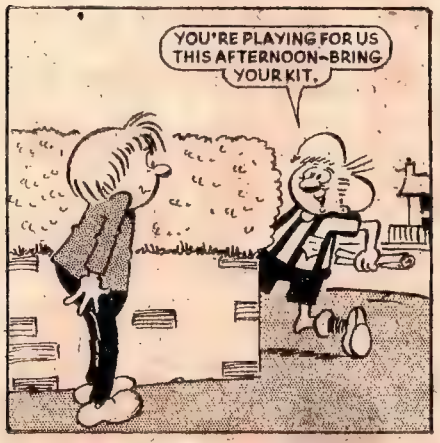
CHUCKLE! I KNEW GNASHER WOULDN'T BITE HIS MASTER, SO I HAD JIMMY BROWN DRAW DENNIS ON MY FOOTBALL!
HEH-HEH!
BNO 14.11.81

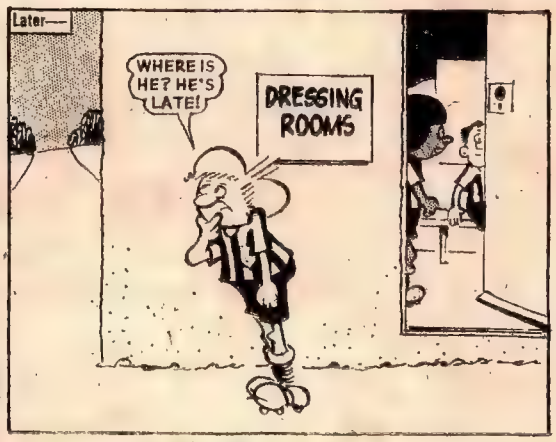
# BALL BOY

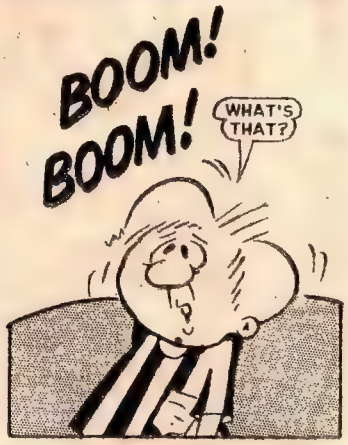

I PLAYED AT THE BIG CUP FINAL LAST YEAR.
REALLY?

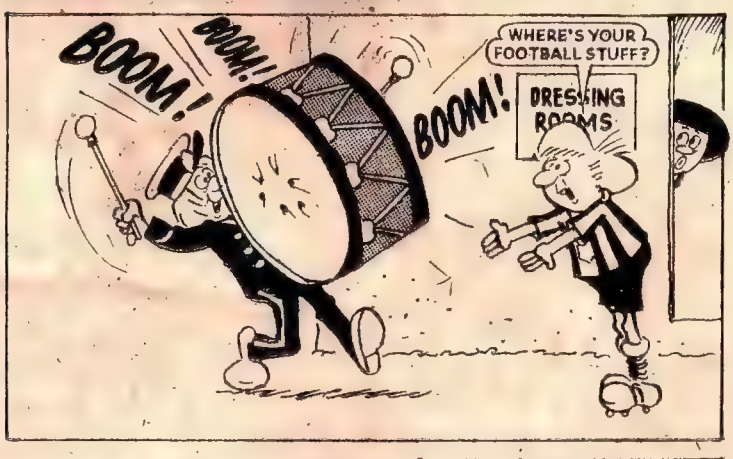

WAIT THERE!
ZOOM!


SIGN HERE!
SIGNING ON FORM


YOU'RE PLAYING FOR US THIS AFTERNOON—BRING YOUR KIT.


Later—
WHERE IS HE? HE'S LATE!
DRESSING ROOMS

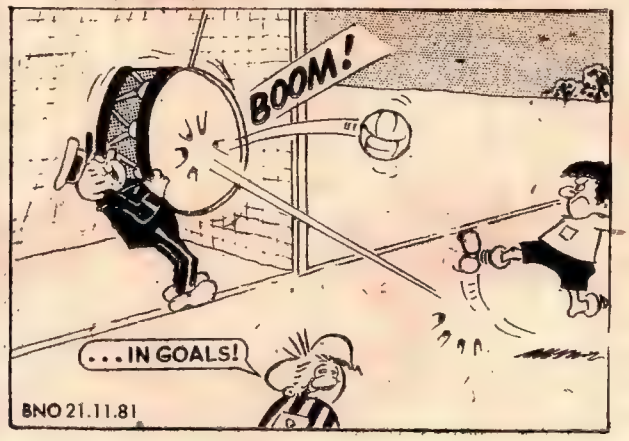

BOOM! BOOM!
WHAT'S THAT?


BOOM!
BOOM!
BOOM!
WHERE'S YOUR FOOTBALL STUFF?
DRESSING ROOMS

I'M NOT A FOOTBALLER—I PLAYED AT THE BIG CUP FINAL IN THE BAND, AT HALF-TIME!

WHAT'LL WE DO? WE NEED YOU TO GIVE US ELEVEN PLAYERS!

BOOM!
OUR NEW SIGNING'S HAVING A GREAT GAME . . .


BOOM!
. . . IN GOALS!
BNO 21.11.81

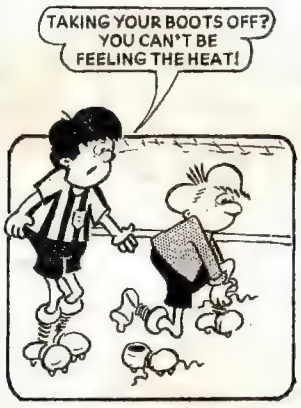
# BALL BOY

IT'S COLD IN GOALS TODAY!

COME ON, MY TEAM—SCORE!

I WOULDN'T SHOUT SO LOUD IF I WERE YOU!
EH? WHY?

WATCH YOU DON'T MAKE THAT FALL DOWN!
GASP! A HUGE ICICLE!


TAKING YOUR BOOTS OFF? YOU CAN'T BE FEELING THE HEAT!

NO—I'M GOING TO TIP-TOE! A LOUD NOISE WOULD BRING THAT ICICLE DOWN!
TIP
TOE

ERK! IT'S NIL—NIL BUT THEY COULD SCORE HERE!
PASS

THUD!
PHEW! LUCKY!

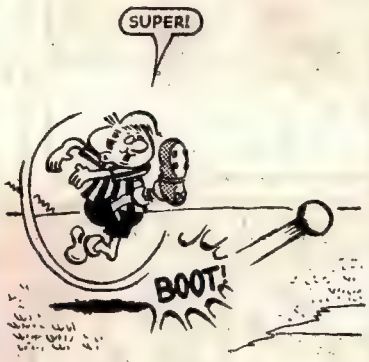
BUT I GOT TO THE REBOUND! A CERTAIN GOAL!
AW, NO!
TRUNDLE
BNO 28.11.81

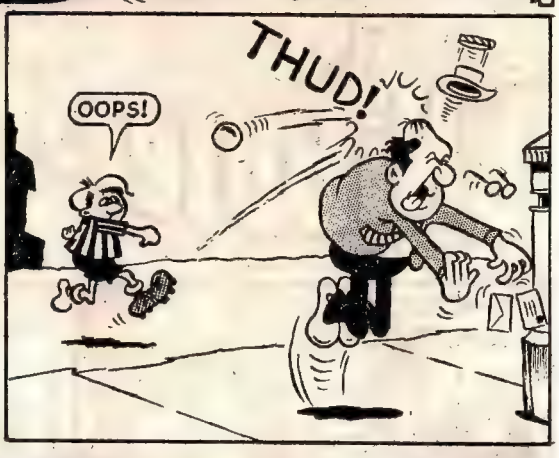
NO GOAL! AND WE'VE NO TIME TO GET ANOTHER BALL! FULL TIME!
BANG!
FALL-L

WELL, I'VE SEEN PLAYERS BEING CARRIED OFF SHOULDER HIGH...
YOU SAVED US THERE, ICICLE!

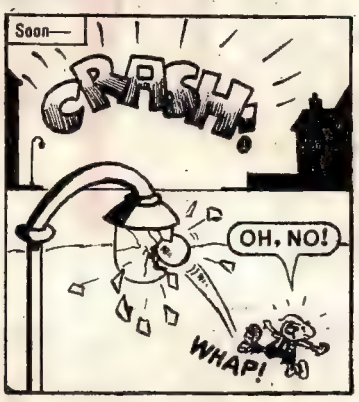
# BALL BOY

COO! LOOK-ONE OF THOSE OLD-FASHIONED FOOTBALL BOOTS! BET I COULD KICK REALLY HARD WITH THAT!
DUMP

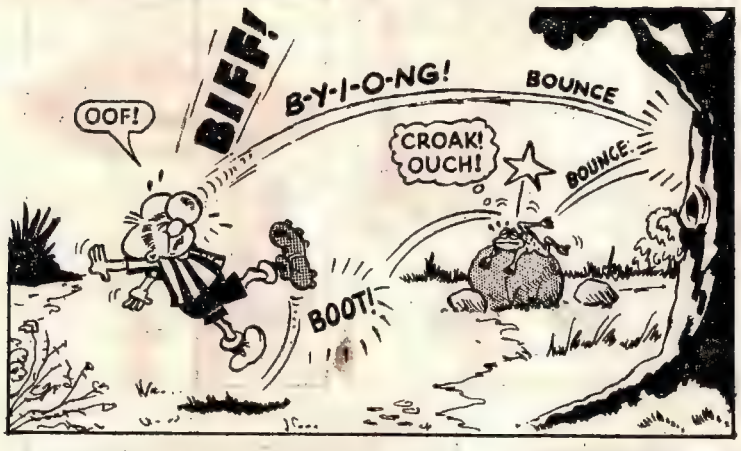

SUPER!
BOOT!


OOPS!
THUD!

ERK — TIME TO ORDER MYSELF OFF!
HOOLIGAN! HOOLIGAN!


Soon—
CRASH!
OH, NO!
WHAP!

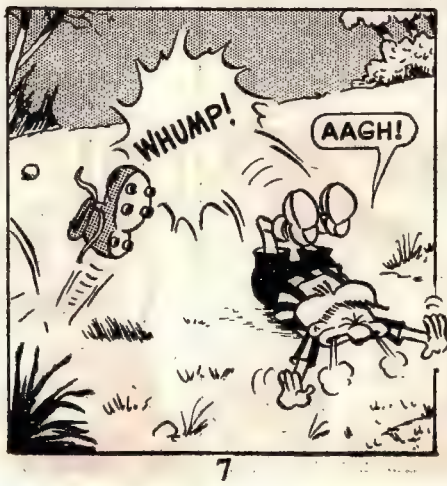
Later—
I'LL PLAY IN THE WOODS-CAN'T DO MUCH HARM HERE.


OOF!
BIFF!
B-Y-I-O-NG!
BOUNCE
CROAK! OUCH!
BOUNCE
BOOT!

I'M HAVING NO MORE KICKS WITH THAT BOOT!

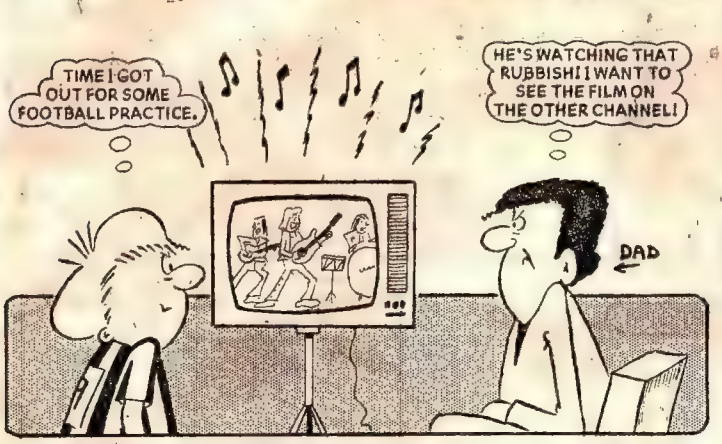
That's what you think, Ball-boy—
HOP

EEK!
THUD!
HOP


WHUMP!
AAGH!

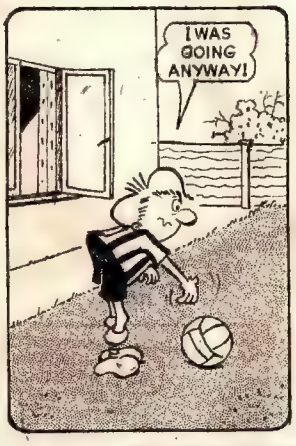
WAH! LET ME OUT OF HERE! THAT BOOT'S HAUNTED!
THAT'LL TEACH HIM!
BNO 5.12.81

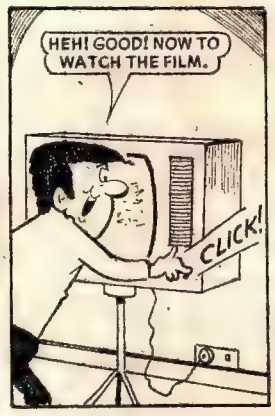
# BALL BOY


TIME I GOT OUT FOR SOME FOOTBALL PRACTICE.
HE'S WATCHING THAT RUBBISH! I WANT TO SEE THE FILM ON THE OTHER CHANNEL!
DAD

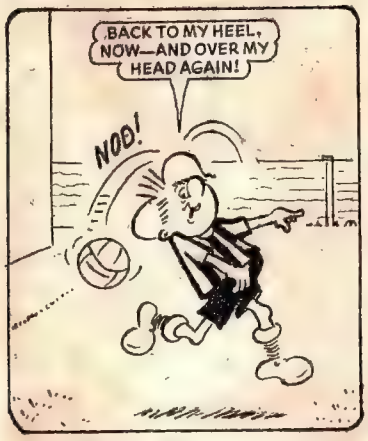
CALL YOURSELF A FOOTBALLER, HUH?
EH? WHAT'S THIS?

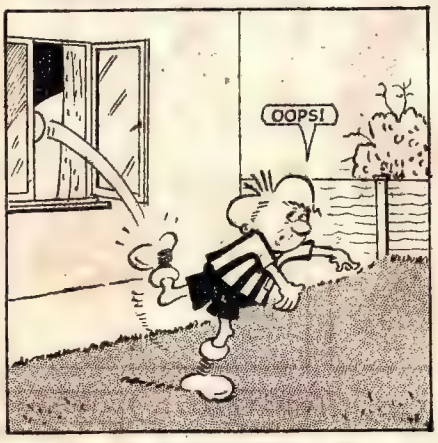
YOUNGSTERS WATCH TOO MUCH TV—SHOULD BE OUT PRACTISING FOOTBALL SKILLS. LIKE I DID WHEN I WAS YOUNG!
PUSH!

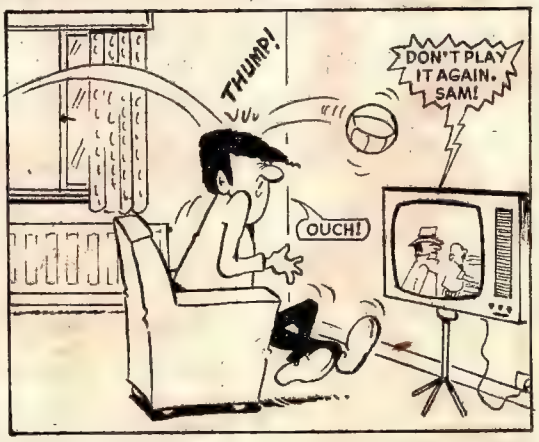

I WAS GOING ANYWAY!

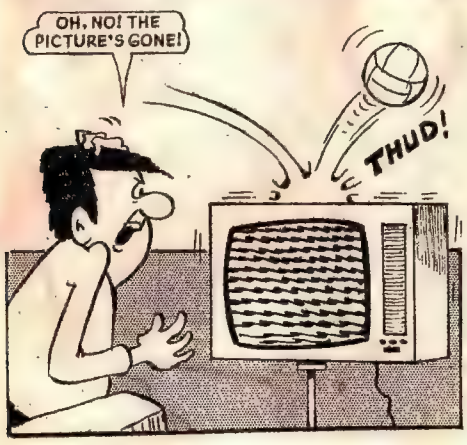

HEH! GOOD! NOW TO WATCH THE FILM.
CLICK!

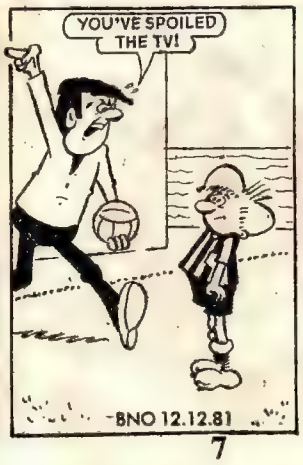
NOW ON TO MY HEAD!

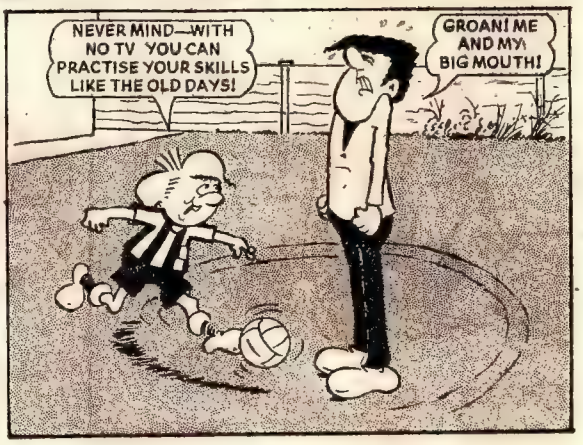

BACK TO MY HEEL, NOW—AND OVER MY HEAD AGAIN!
NOD!


OOPS!

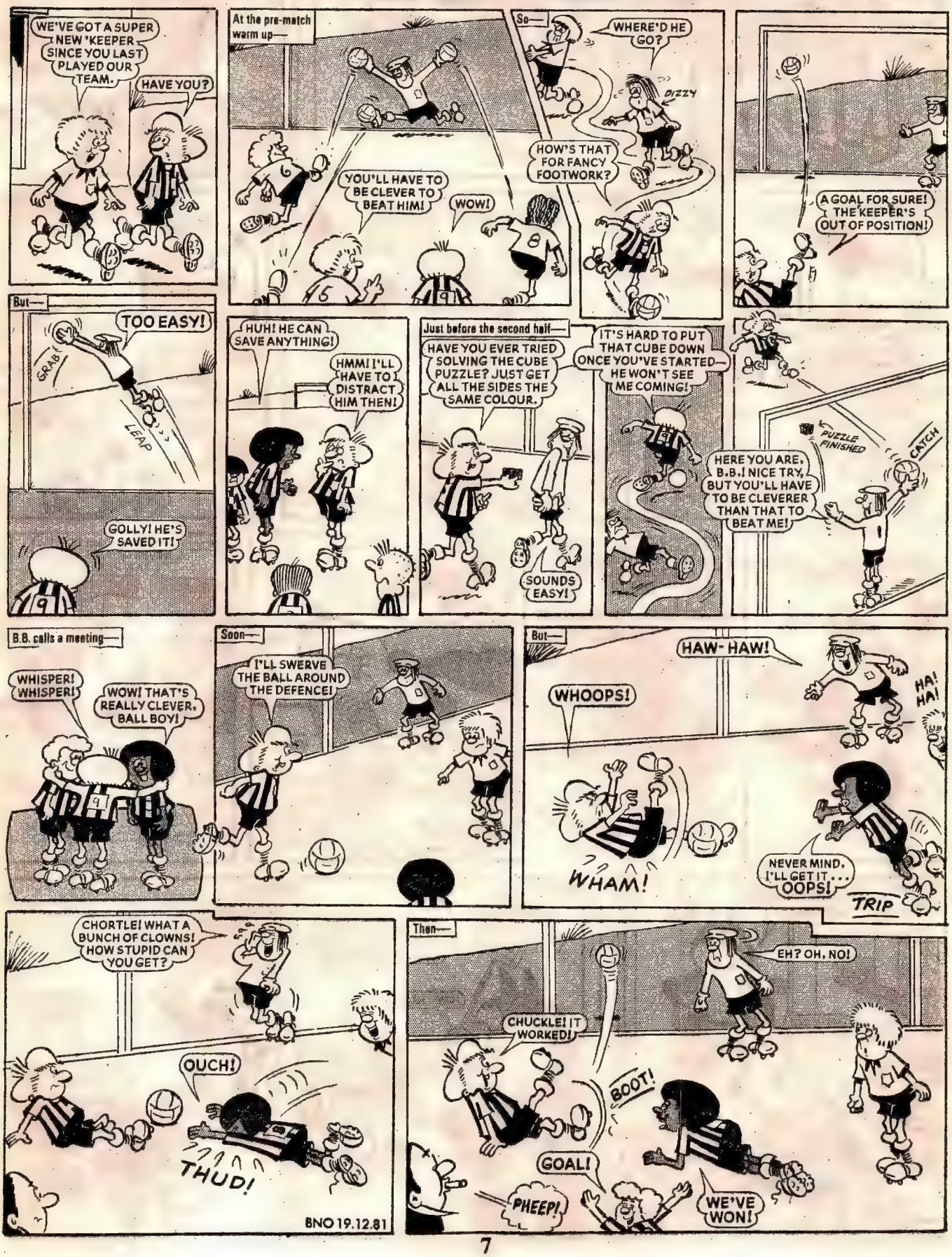

THUMP!
DON'T PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM!
OUCH!


OH, NO! THE PICTURE'S GONE!
THUD!


YOU'VE SPOILED THE TV!
BNO 12.12.81


NEVER MIND—WITH NO TV YOU CAN PRACTISE YOUR SKILLS LIKE THE OLD DAYS!
GROAN! ME AND MY BIG MOUTH!

# BALL BOY


WE'VE GOT A SUPER NEW 'KEEPER SINCE YOU LAST PLAYED OUR TEAM.
HAVE YOU?
At the pre-match warm up—
YOU'LL HAVE TO BE CLEVER TO BEAT HIM!
WOW!
So—
WHERE'D HE GO?
DIZZY
HOW'S THAT FOR FANCY FOOTWORK?
A GOAL FOR SURE! THE KEEPER'S OUT OF POSITION!
But—
TOO EASY!
GRAB
LEAP
GOLLY! HE'S SAVED IT!
HUH! HE CAN SAVE ANYTHING!
HMM! I'LL HAVE TO DISTRACT HIM THEN!
Just before the second half—
HAVE YOU EVER TRIED SOLVING THE CUBE PUZZLE? JUST GET ALL THE SIDES THE SAME COLOUR.
SOUNDS EASY!
IT'S HARD TO PUT THAT CUBE DOWN ONCE YOU'VE STARTED— HE WON'T SEE ME COMING!
PUZZLE FINISHED
CATCH
HERE YOU ARE, B.B.! NICE TRY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO BE CLEVERER THAN THAT TO BEAT ME!
B.B. calls a meeting—
WHISPER! WHISPER!
WOW! THAT'S REALLY CLEVER, BALL BOY!
Soon—
I'LL SWERVE THE BALL AROUND THE DEFENCE!
But—
HAW-HAW!
HA! HA!
WHOOPS!
WHAM!
NEVER MIND, I'LL GET IT... OOPS!
TRIP
CHORTLE! WHAT A BUNCH OF CLOWNS! HOW STUPID CAN YOU GET?
OUCH!
THUD!
BNO 19.12.81
Then—
EH? OH, NO!
CHUCKLE! IT WORKED!
BOOT!
GOAL!
PHEEP!
WE'VE WON!

# BALL BOY

Christmas Eve—

HOPE I GET PLENTY OF FOOTBALL GEAR FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS...

CATCH

...A NEW PAIR OF BOOTS, AND A...

...HEY! WHERE DID MY BALL GO?

Another ball later—

STRANGE THING, THAT!

DRIBBLE

GRAB

HEY! IT'S VANISHED AGAIN!

GONE

And so—

WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND HERE?

SNARL! THAT'S THE THIRD BALL THAT'S VANISHED!

CLICK!

WAIT! THAT SHED DOOR WAS OPEN A SECOND AGO! MUST HAVE A LOOK!

AH! NOW I SEE!

At the Town Hall—

FATTEST 'SANTA' COMPETITION

TO BE JUDGED BY THE LORD MAYOR

FIRST PRIZE – *CHRISTMAS HAMPER*

THIS "SANTA" WINS!

BULGE

THAT'S MY DAD!

BNO 26.12.81

Back home—

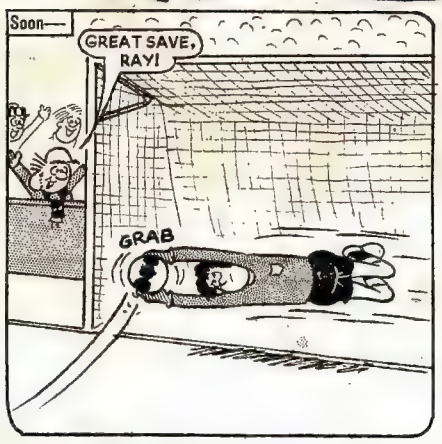
YOU'D HAVE THOUGHT I WAS DAFT! HEH! HEH!

YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST ASKED FOR MY FOOTBALLS, DAD!

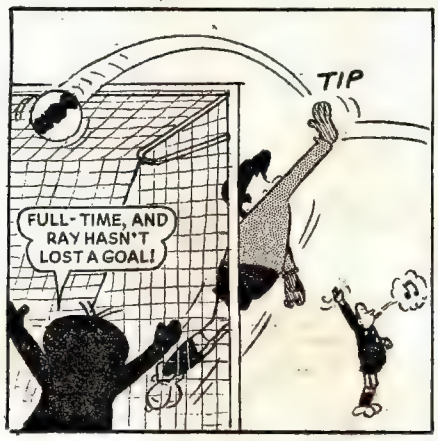
1st PRIZE

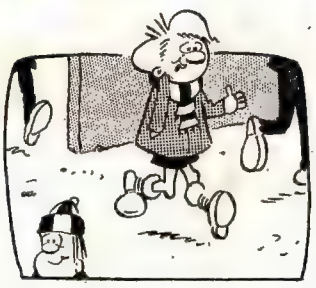
# BALL BOY

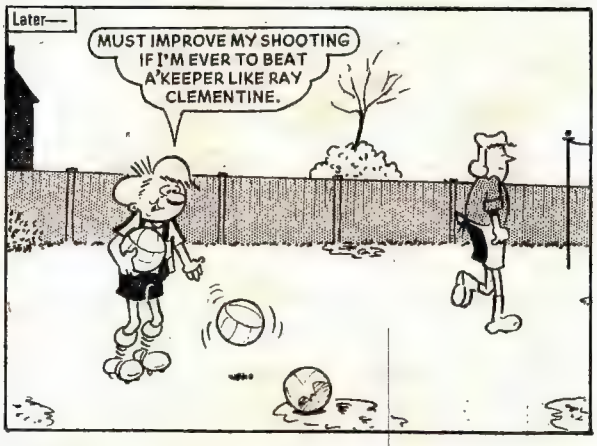
BOYS' GATE
MY FAVOURITE GOALIE, RAY CLEMENTINE, IS PLAYING TODAY.


Soon—
GREAT SAVE, RAY!
GRAB

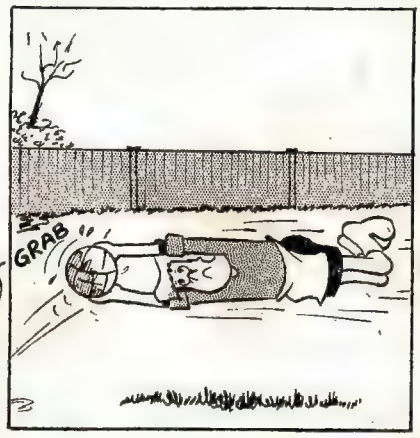
PUNCH
WHAT A 'KEEPER!

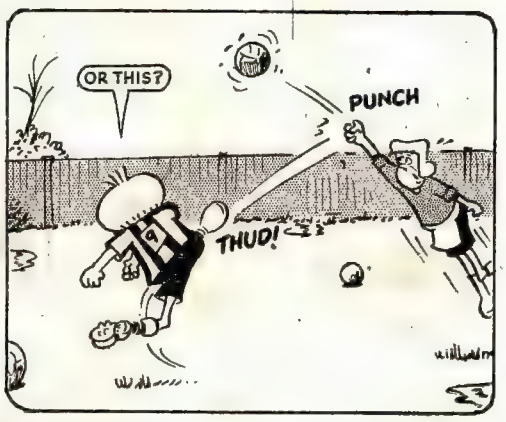

TIP
FULL-TIME, AND RAY HASN'T LOST A GOAL!


WHEN A GOALIE DOESN'T LOSE A GOAL, WE IN THE GAME CALL IT A "CLEAN SHEET".


Later—
MUST IMPROVE MY SHOOTING IF I'M EVER TO BEAT A 'KEEPER LIKE RAY CLEMENTINE.

WONDER IF RAY COULD SAVE THIS?
THUD!


GRAB

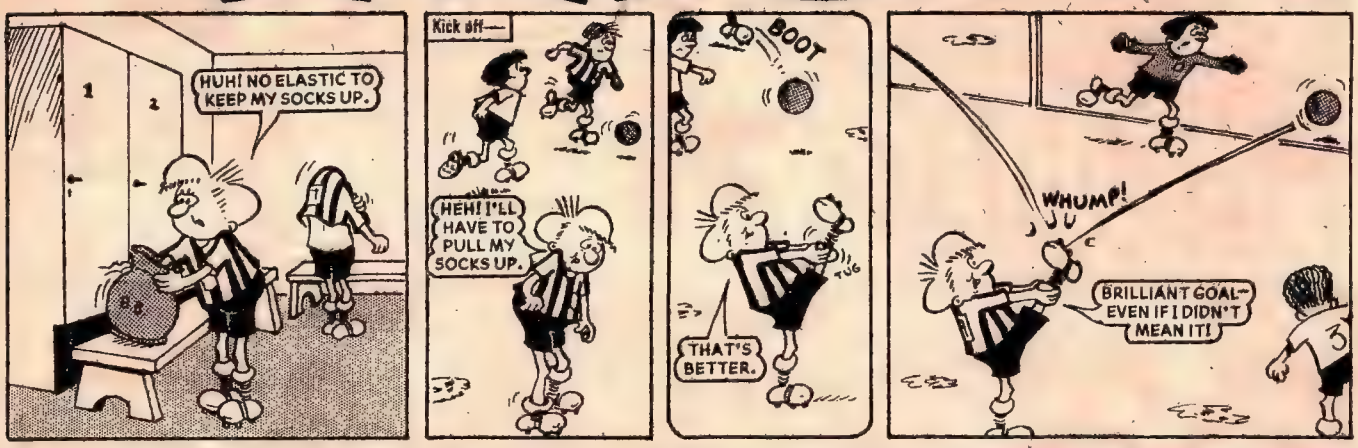

OR THIS?
PUNCH
THUD!

OR A LOW DRIVE LIKE THIS?
SAVE
BNO 9.1.62

HEY! MY MUM'S A GREAT GOALIE, TOO...

...AND SHE KEPT A CLEAN SHEET AS WELL!
KEEP THOSE MUDDY BALLS AWAY FROM MY CLEAN SHEET!

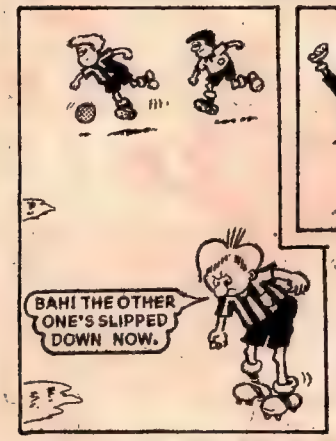
# BALL BOY

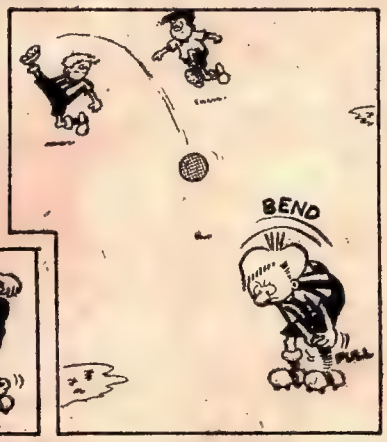

HUH! NO ELASTIC TO KEEP MY SOCKS UP.

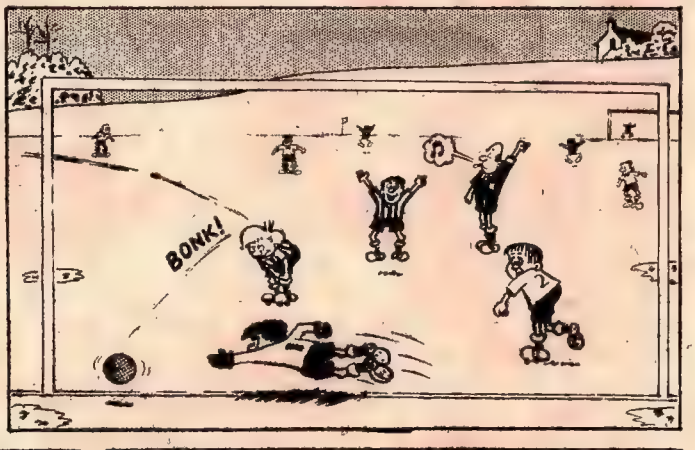

Kick off—
HEH! I'LL HAVE TO PULL MY SOCKS UP.


BOOT
THAT'S BETTER.

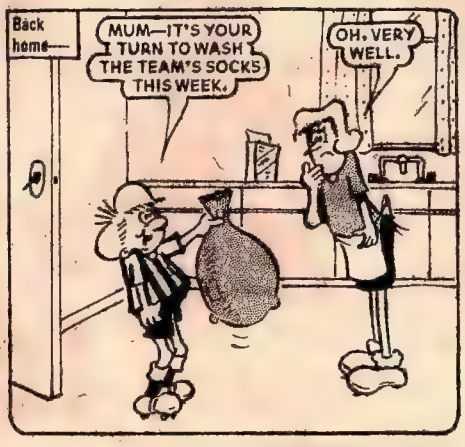

WHUMP!
BRILLIANT GOAL— EVEN IF I DIDN'T MEAN IT!


BAH! THE OTHER ONE'S SLIPPED DOWN NOW.


BEND


BONK!

Full time—
HEH-HEH! TWO-NIL!
GREAT TACTICS. LETTING YOUR SOCKS FALL DOWN!


Back home—
MUM—IT'S YOUR TURN TO WASH THE TEAM'S SOCKS THIS WEEK.
OH, VERY WELL.

Later—
I'LL PRACTISE MY SHOOTING.

OH, NO!
SNAP!
WHUMP!
YOU CAN WASH THEM YOURSELF THIS TIME!
MUD
ALL OF A SUDDEN I HATE SOCKS THAT FALL DOWN!
BNO 16.1.82

# BALL BOY

SCHOOL NOTICES
FOOTBALL PRACTICE TONIGHT 7·00p.m.
ASTRONOMY CLUB MEETS 7·00p.m.

SEE YOU AT THE FOOTBALL PRACTICE TONIGHT, BALL BOY.
NO...
NOTICES
FOOTBALL PRACTICE TONIGHT 7·00p.m.
ASTRONOMY CLUB MEETS 7·00p.m.

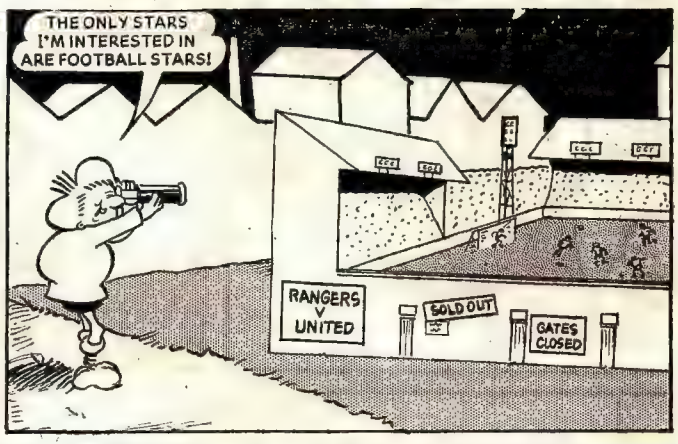
...I'M GOING TO THE ASTRONOMY CLUB!
SCHOOL NOTICES
FOOTBALL PRACTICE TONIGHT 7·00p.m.
ASTRONOMY CLUB MEETS 7·00p.m.

GASP! ARE YOU FEELING OK?
HIS PULSE IS NORMAL.

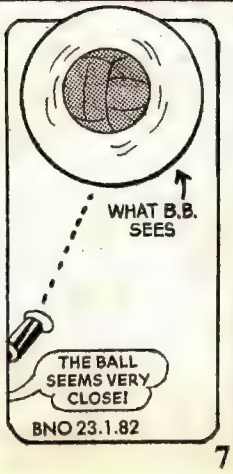
YOU'RE NOT ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR OUTER SPACE TALENT, ARE YOU?
YOU SHOULD SEE MY BALL CONTROL!

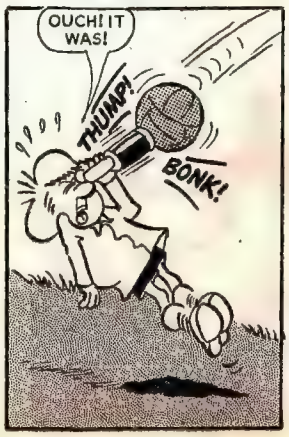
After school—
NOW FOR FOOTBALL.
NOW FOR SOME STAR GAZING.

And—
I'M NOT SO DAFT— SEE WHAT I'M WATCHING!


THE ONLY STARS I'M INTERESTED IN ARE FOOTBALL STARS!
RANGERS v UNITED
SOLD OUT
GATES CLOSED

MIGHTY KICK!
GATES CLOSED


WHAT B.B. SEES
THE BALL SEEMS VERY CLOSE!
BNO 23.1.82


OUCH! IT WAS!
THUMP!
BONK!

Back home—
GET YOUR BLACK EYE AT FOOTBALL PRACTICE, SON?
NO—AT THE ASTRONOMY CLUB! HUH!

# BALL BOY

NO GAME OF FOOTBALL TODAY, WHAT'LL WE DO?

PARK CLOSED. PARK KEEPER HAS LOST KEY

I KNOW—HOW ABOUT A GAME OF HIDE-AND-SEEK? YOU CAN BE "IT", B.B.!

OK—I'LL COUNT TO ONE HUNDRED.

So—

ONE . . . TWO . . . THREE . . . THIS COUNTING'S BORING . . . FOUR . . . FIVE . . .

. . . SIX . . . SEVEN . . . EIGHT . . . SNORE!

Soon—

Then—

WAKE UP, B.B.! WE'VE BEEN WAITING AGES FOR YOU TO COME AND LOOK FOR US—YOU'RE SPOILING THE GAME!

EH? OH! I MUST HAVE DROPPED OFF.

POKE

THIS TIME TRY COUNTING THE GOALS YOU'VE SCORED.

OK—GOOD IDEA.

ONE . . .

. . . TWO . . .

. . . THREE . . . DOH . . .

THUD!

REBOUND

BOOT!

HE'S DONE IT AGAIN—FALLEN ASLEEP!

OH! SORRY, PALS!

I'VE GOT AN NEW IDEA FOR COUNTING—AND THIS TIME I WON'T FALL ASLEEP!

ONE . . . TWO . . . THREE . . . HURRY UP, PALS! A HUNDRED WON'T TAKE ME LONG . . . FOUR . . . FIVE . . . SIX . . . SEVEN . . .

TAP! TAP!

BNO 30.1.82

# BALL BOY

I'M GOING TO HAVE TARGET PRACTICE FOR MY SHOOTING TODAY, FANS.

CUTE BACKHEELER

I'LL TRY MY GROUND SHOTS FIRST.

HUGH'S FOR SHOES

WHAT A SHOT! BANG ON TARGET!

THUD!

BOOT!

But—

OOYAH!

WHAMP!

COO! THAT MAN'S POSTING HIS NOSE!

BALL BOY'S DAD

OOPS! SORRY, DAD!

WELL, BE MORE CAREFUL IN FUTURE.

HUGH'S SHOE SHOP

THIS TIME I'LL AIM FOR THE MARK ON THE FENCE, READERS.

That mark is a nail, Ball Boy!

BANG ON!

HUGH'S FOR SHOES

BOOOMPH!

Bang on, all right—

BANG!

THUD!

OOH! WHAT WAS THAT?

AAAGH!

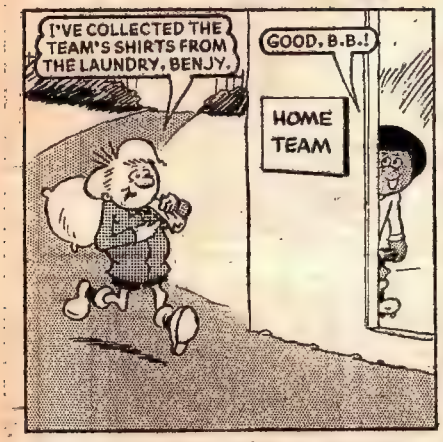
FUNNY MAN! FIRST HE POSTS HIS NOSE—THEN HE TRIES SHOES ON HIS HEAD!

THAT WAS YOUR FAULT!

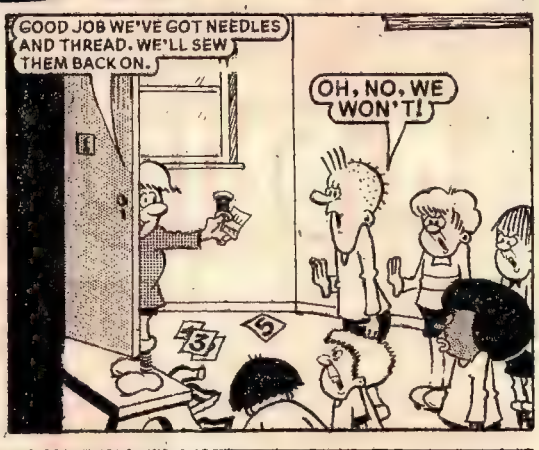
HAVE TO RUN, FANS—DAD DOESN'T NEED ANY TARGET PRACTICE WITH A SLIPPER!

BNO 6.2.82

# BALL BOY

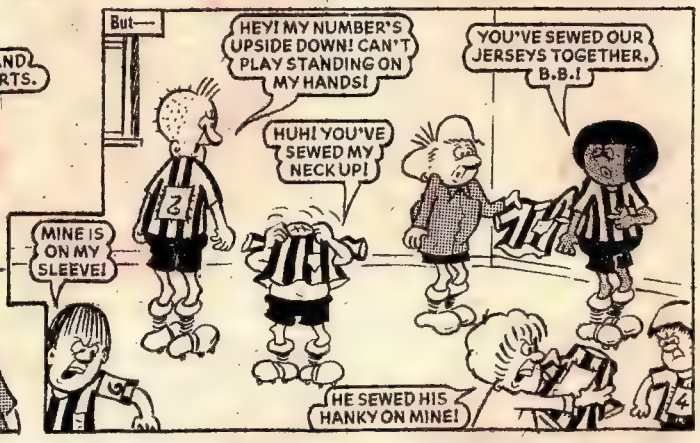

I'VE COLLECTED THE TEAM'S SHIRTS FROM THE LAUNDRY, BENJY.
GOOD, B.B.!
HOME TEAM

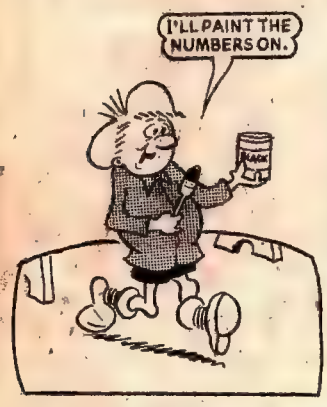
But—
AW, NO! THE NUMBERS HAVE COME OFF!


GOOD JOB WE'VE GOT NEEDLES AND THREAD. WE'LL SEW THEM BACK ON.
OH, NO, WE WON'T!

Sew—
HUH! I ALWAYS GET THE WORST JOBS!

Later—
FINISHED—COME AND COLLECT YOUR SHIRTS.

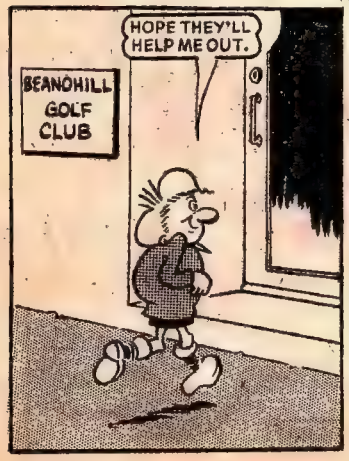

But—
HEY! MY NUMBER'S UPSIDE DOWN! CAN'T PLAY STANDING ON MY HANDS!
YOU'VE SEWED OUR JERSEYS TOGETHER, B.B.!
HUH! YOU'VE SEWED MY NECK UP!
MINE IS ON MY SLEEVE!
HE SEWED HIS HANKY ON MINE!


I'LL PAINT THE NUMBERS ON.

HOW'S THAT, GOALIE?

AWFUL! IT'S MY OWN SHIRT! I HAVEN'T PUT THE GOALIE'S JERSEY ON YET!

MUST THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE. AH...
HOME TEAM


HOPE THEY'LL HELP ME OUT.
BEANOHILL GOLF CLUB

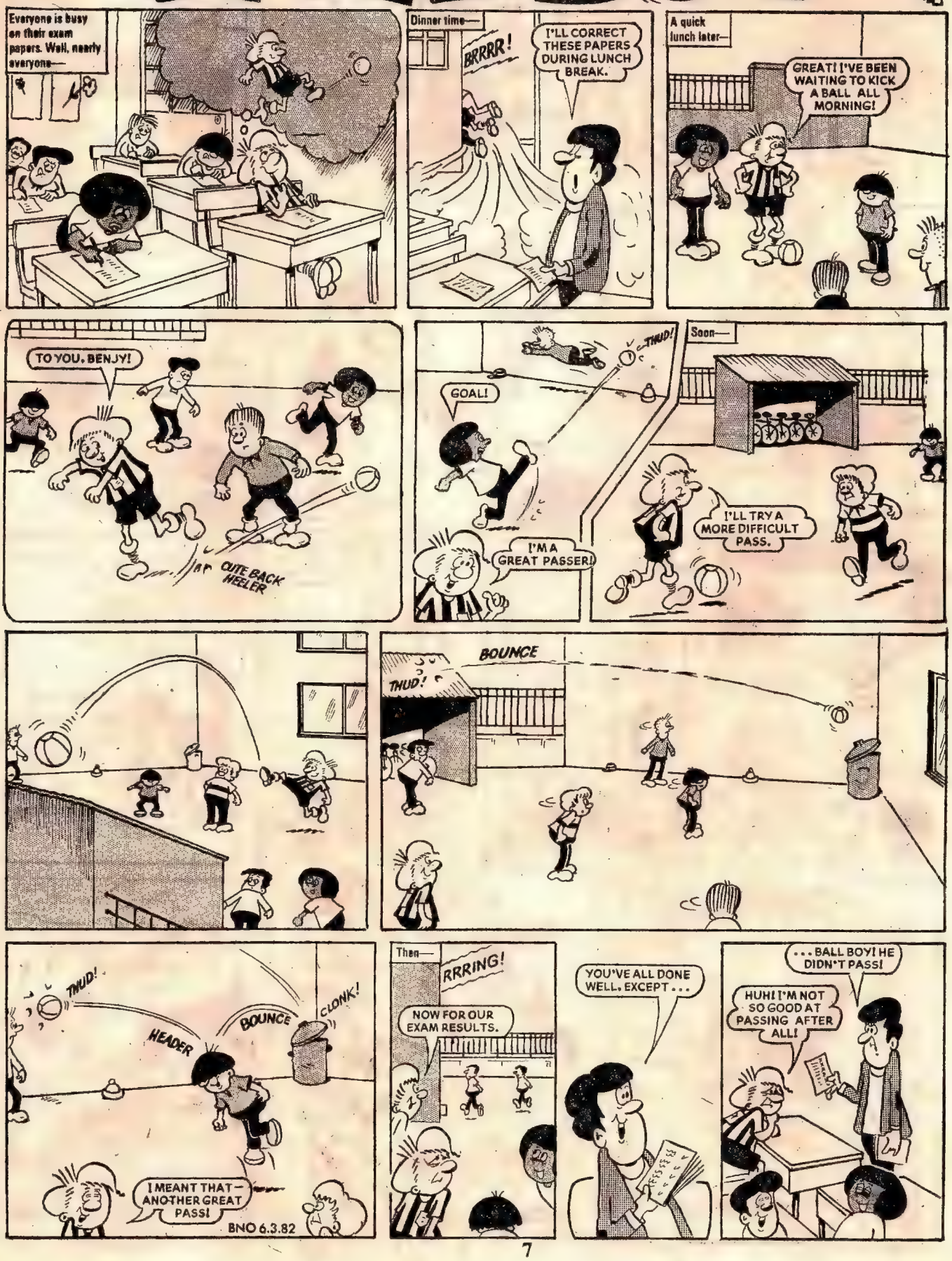
THE GOLF CLUB LOANED US THESE HOLE MARKER FLAGS! UNUSUAL, EH?
HOPE I GET A "GOAL-IN ONE"! HEH! HEH!
BNO 13.2.82

BALL BOY
I'M OFF TO SUPPORT THE ROVERS IN TODAY'S BIG GAME, READERS.
CLACK!
CLACKITY!
CLACK!
CLACKITY!
YIKES! THE HEAD'S COME OFF MY RATTLE!
CLONK!
OOF!
SNORT!
BAH! I'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER RATTLE NOW.
Soon—
COLTS
SALE
UGGLE!
COO! THANKS!
RATTLE!
NOT BAD.
RATTLE!
RATTLE!
HA! HA!
WHO'S A LOVELY BOY, THEN? CHUCKLE!
DO YOU SUPPORT A JUNIOR TEAM?
BLUSH
I'LL HAVE THAT BACK!
OOOW!
Soon—
ZOO!
. . . HMM!
But—
NO—YOU CAN'T BORROW SIX RATTLESNAKES JUST FOR THE AFTERNOON!
Later—
AH! JUST WHAT I WANT!
IS THERE A DENTIST AROUND HERE?
SHORT-SIGHTED
I'M A DENTIST—DIDN'T YOU SEE THE SIGN OUTSIDE?
ERK! SOMEONE'S PINCHED MY SIGN!
Here's who—
UP THE ROVERS!
SUPER RATTLE, THIS—PITY I'VE TO RETURN IT AFTER THE MATCH!
CLACKITY CLACK!
RATTLE!
RATTLE!

# BALL BOY

Before the match —
OH, NO! THE PITCH IS FLOODED!
HOME DRESSING ROOM
COME ON, LADS—MUST CLEAR THOSE PUDDLES OR THE REFEREE WILL PUT THE GAME OFF.
HOW CAN WE GET RID OF THE PUDDLES? HAVE A THINK, LADS.
THINK
THINK
THINK
THINK
A few thinks later —
THE BALL PUMP WILL SOON SUCK THE PUDDLES UP!
SUCK
NOW I'LL SQUIRT THE WATER BEHIND THE GOALS.
SCOOSH!
THE GROUNDSMAN'S OLD WELLIE'S JUST THE JOB!
SCOOP
BEHIND THE GOAL WITH IT.
POUR
THE TRAINER'S MAGIC SPONGE IS PERFECT FOR THIS!
SQUEEZE
THERE—WE'VE SHIFTED MOST OF THE WATER BEHIND THE GOALS.
So —
THE REF'S GOT TO LET THE GAME GO ON, NOW.
So —
REFEREE
READY TO GO, TEAM?
SPLUP
GURGLE!
BNO 27.2.82
MATCH OFF!
THE WATER'S RUN BACK ON TO THE PITCH! WE'VE SUNK OUR OWN GOALS!

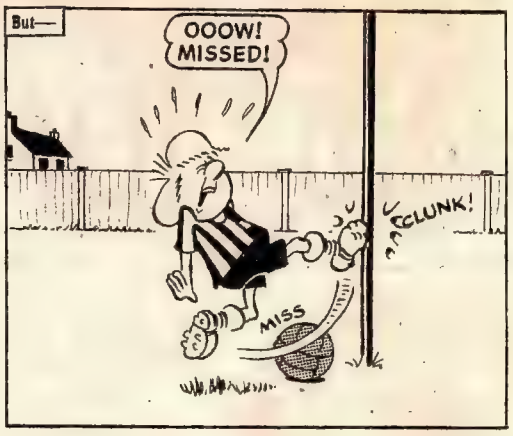
# BALL BOY

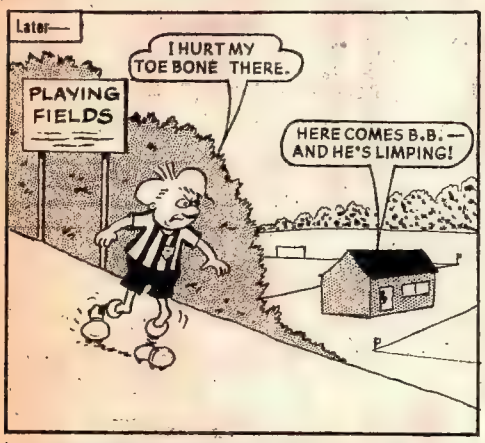

Everyone is busy on their exam papers. Well, nearly everyone—
Dinner time—
BRRRR!
I'LL CORRECT THESE PAPERS DURING LUNCH BREAK.
A quick lunch later—
GREAT! I'VE BEEN WAITING TO KICK A BALL ALL MORNING!
TO YOU, BENJY!
QUITE BACK HEELER
THUD!
GOAL!
I'M A GREAT PASSER!
Soon—
I'LL TRY A MORE DIFFICULT PASS.
BOUNCE
THUD!
THUD!
HEADER
BOUNCE
CLONK!
I MEANT THAT— ANOTHER GREAT PASS!
BNO 6.3.82
Then—
RRRING!
NOW FOR OUR EXAM RESULTS.
YOU'VE ALL DONE WELL, EXCEPT . . .
. . . BALL BOY! HE DIDN'T PASS!
HUH! I'M NOT SO GOOD AT PASSING AFTER ALL!

# BALL BOY

I CAN'T WAIT FOR TODAY'S GAME TO BEGIN.

MUST HAVE A PRACTICE KICK.


But—
OOOW! MISSED!
CLUNK!
MISS


Later—
PLAYING FIELDS
I HURT MY TOE BONE THERE.
HERE COMES B.B.— AND HE'S LIMPING!

HE'D BETTER HAVE A FITNESS TEST, TICH.
RIGHT—LET'S SEE THAT TOE, B.B.!

IT LOOKS LIKE A HOOTER!

OW! OW!
SOUNDS LIKE ONE, TOO!
PRESS
PRESS

SORRY, B.B.—YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY TODAY.
BUT I MUST HAVE A GAME!

So—
GOAL! I'VE SCORED!

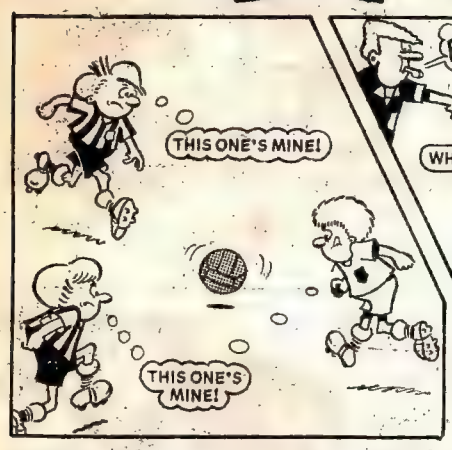
?
PUZZLED READER

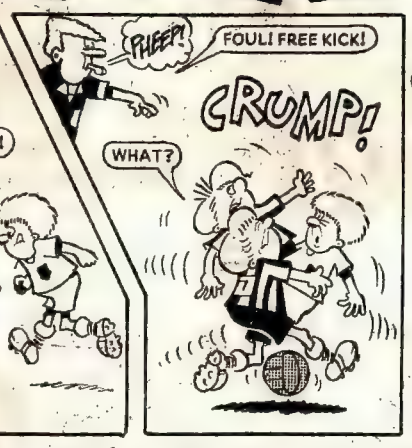
HOW DID YOU DO IT WITH THAT SORE TOE?
READER
EASY...

...THE GIRLS' HOCKEY TEAM WAS ONE MAN-ER-WOMAN SHORT, SO I STEPPED IN!

DON'T KISS ME BECAUSE I GOT THAT GREAT GOAL, GIRLS!
HUH! WHO'D WANT TO?
BNO 13.3.82

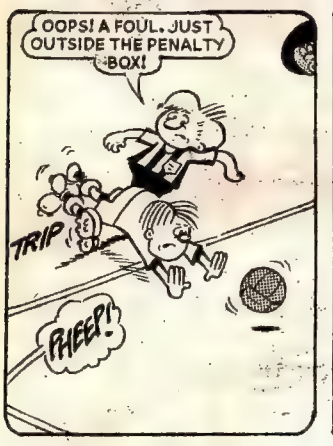
# BALL BOY


THIS ONE'S MINE!
THIS ONE'S MINE!

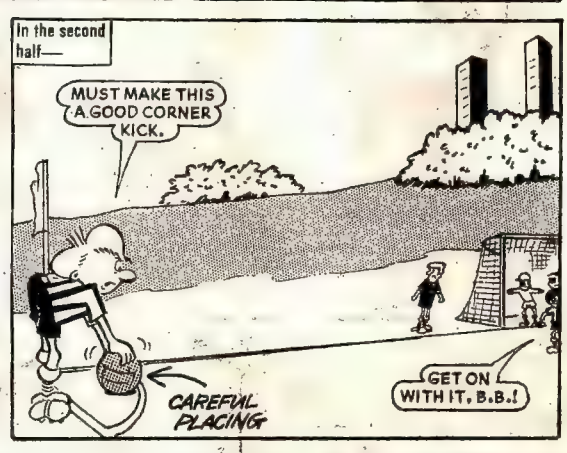

PHEEP!
FOUL! FREE KICK!
CRUMP!
WHAT?

HUH! NOT FAIR!
MY DECISION IS FINAL.

Later—
MUST STOP HIM FROM SCORING!

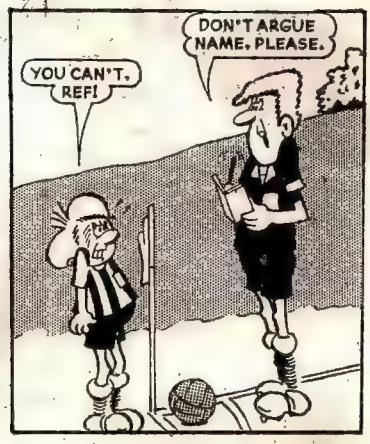

OOPS! A FOUL. JUST OUTSIDE THE PENALTY BOX!
TRIP
PHEEP!

PENALTY!
RUBBISH! IT WAS OUTSIDE THE AREA!
NOW, B.B., DON'T ARGUE WITH THE REF!


In the second half—
MUST MAKE THIS A GOOD CORNER KICK.
CAREFUL PLACING
GET ON WITH IT, B.B.!

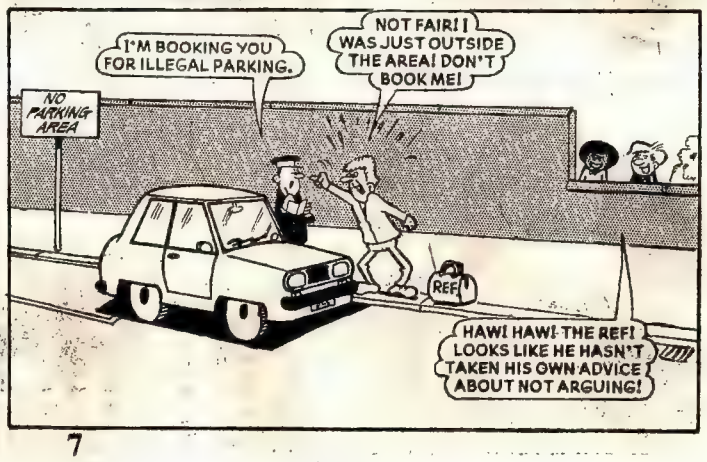
BAH! IS HE GOING TO TAKE ALL DAY?
I'LL JUST MOVE THE BALL A LITTLE BIT.

HMM! NO WIND TO ALLOW FOR . . .
I'M BOOKING YOU FOR TIME WASTING!

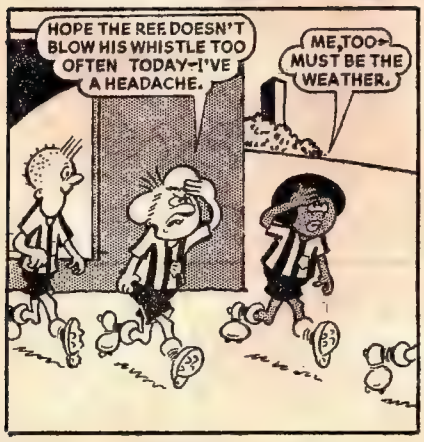

YOU CAN'T, REF!
DON'T ARGUE NAME, PLEASE.

After the match—
THAT WASN'T FAIR.
WELL, YOU SHOULDN'T ARGUE SO MUCH.
BNO 20.3.82

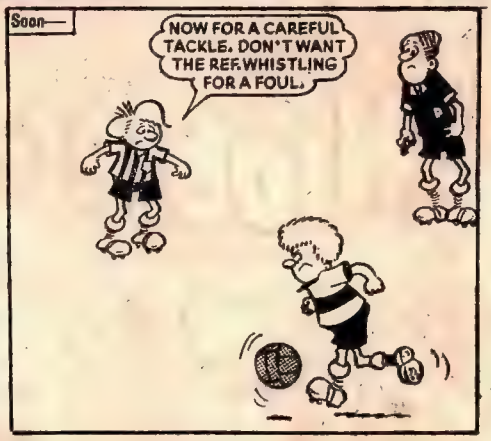
RANT!
RAGE!
WOW! SOMEONE'S A BIT ANGRY!
WONDER WHO?


I'M BOOKING YOU FOR ILLEGAL PARKING.
NOT FAIR! I WAS JUST OUTSIDE THE AREA! DON'T BOOK ME!
NO PARKING AREA
REF!
HAW! HAW! THE REF! LOOKS LIKE HE HASN'T TAKEN HIS OWN ADVICE ABOUT NOT ARGUING!

# BALL BOY


HOPE THE REF. DOESN'T BLOW HIS WHISTLE TOO OFTEN TODAY-I'VE A HEADACHE.
ME,TOO-MUST BE THE WEATHER.

BLAST!
OUCH! THE WHISTLE'S FAR TOO LOUD!
OOOW!


Soon—
NOW FOR A CAREFUL TACKLE. DON'T WANT THE REF. WHISTLING FOR A FOUL.

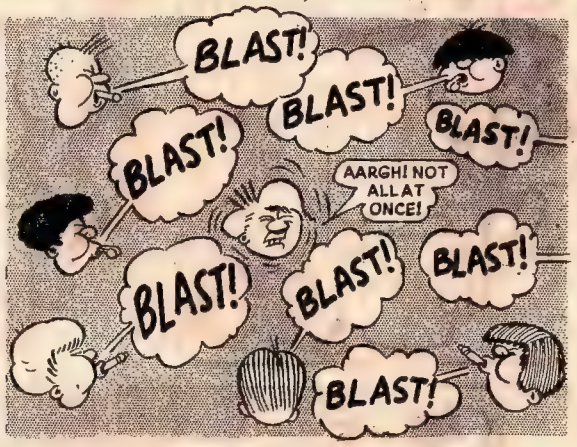
BLAST!
OOW! DIDN'T THINK HE'D FOUL ME FIRST!
PUSH

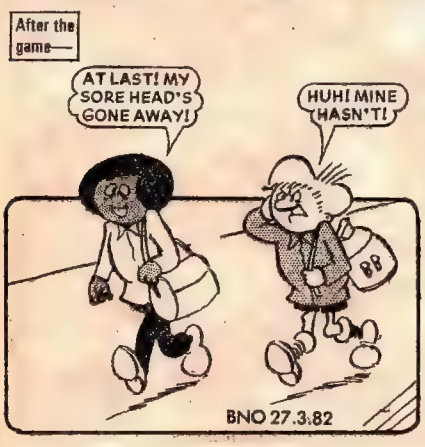
So—
LET'S USE COTTON WOOL EAR-PLUGS.

BLAST!
I CAN ONLY JUST HEAR HIS WHISTLE—MUCH BETTER!
OH, OH!

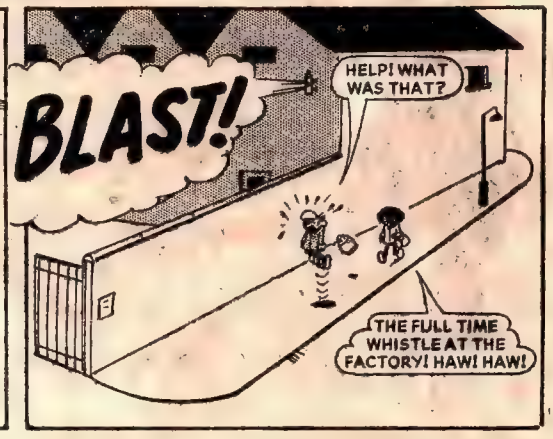
BLAST! BLAST!
THE REF. HAD TO BLOW SO HARD TO MAKE US HEAR...
EVERYONE ELSE HAS GOT A HEADACHE!

Half time—
WE'VE A BOX OF WHISTLES. LET'S TRY THEM OUT AND GIVE THE REF. THE QUIETEST ONE.


BLAST!
BLAST!
BLAST!
BLAST!
AARGH! NOT ALL AT ONCE!
BLAST!
BLAST!
BLAST!
BLAST!


After the game—
AT LAST! MY SORE HEAD'S GONE AWAY!
HUH! MINE HASN'T!
BNO 27.3.82

STILL, THAT'S ME FINISHED WITH WHISTLES FOR TODAY.
DON'T BE SO SURE...


BLAST!
HELP! WHAT WAS THAT?
THE FULL TIME WHISTLE AT THE FACTORY! HAW! HAW!

# BALL BOY

THUD!
OH! A NEAR THING!
BOOT!

HOI! CLEAR OFF, YOU LOT! NO BALL GAMES!
NO BALL GAMES
GRAB

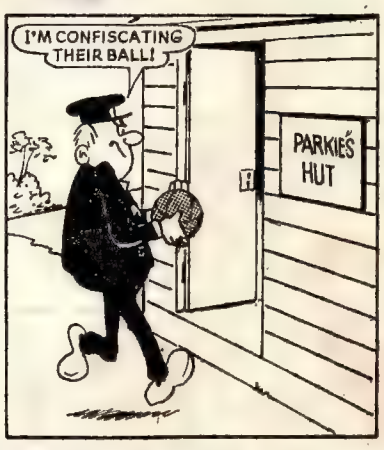
NO BALL GAMES
PESTS!

Later—
WE'RE PLAYING HEAD TENNIS!

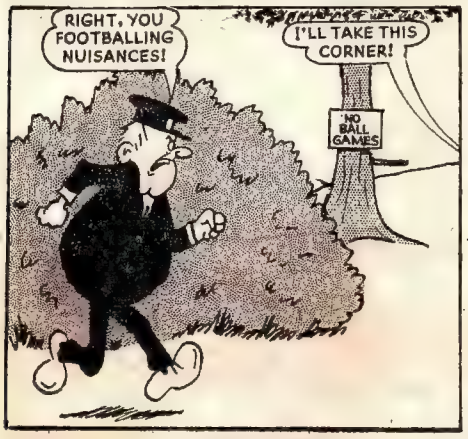
NOD

HEY! WHERE DID THE BALL GO?

I WARNED YOU—NO BALL GAMES!
NO BALL GAMES


I'M CONFISCATING THEIR BALL!
PARKIE'S HUT

PASS!
TACKLE!
SNARL! THEY MUST HAVE A SPARE BALL!


RIGHT, YOU FOOTBALLING NUISANCES!
I'LL TAKE THIS CORNER!
NO BALL GAMES

NO BALL GAMES
THE SIGN SAYS "NO BALL GAMES," SO THAT'S WHAT WE'RE PLAYING WITH—NO BALL!
GOAL!
NOD
I DIDN'T EVEN SEE IT!
BNO 3.4.82

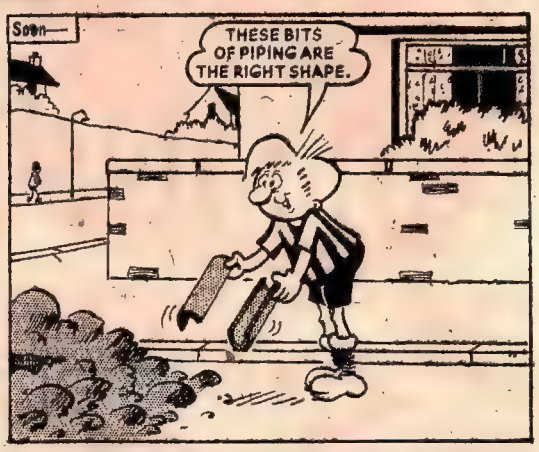
# BALL BOY

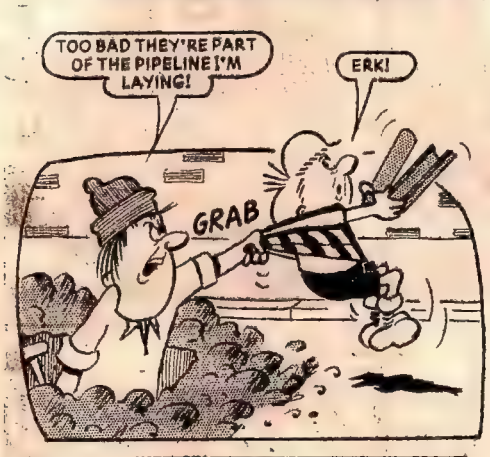
COO! AMAZING!
FOOTBALL FACTS
THE FASTEST GOAL EVER SCORED TOOK ONLY SIX SECONDS FROM KICK-OFF—MUST BEAT THAT!
PLAYING FIELD
At the dressing rooms—
COME ON! I WANT TO SCORE THE FASTEST GOAL!
GETTING CHANGED IN RECORD TIME ISN'T GOING TO HELP!
TICK!
HERE GOES!
TICK!
SWERVE
ZOOM!
TICK!
SWERVE
TICK!
THAT'S IT—FASTEST EVER GOAL!
BOOT!
FASTEST OWN GOAL! YOU WENT THE WRONG WAY!
EH?
OH, NO! I'LL NEVER LIVE IT DOWN!
AND NOT ONLY THAT...
OUR OPPONENTS AREN'T EVEN ON THE PITCH YET!
PHEW! SAVED! IT WASN'T THE FASTEST OWN GOAL!
So—
NO NEED TO RUSH NOW.
HEH! HE'S CHANGED HIS TUNE!
SLOW PASS
BNO 10.4.82

# BALL BOY

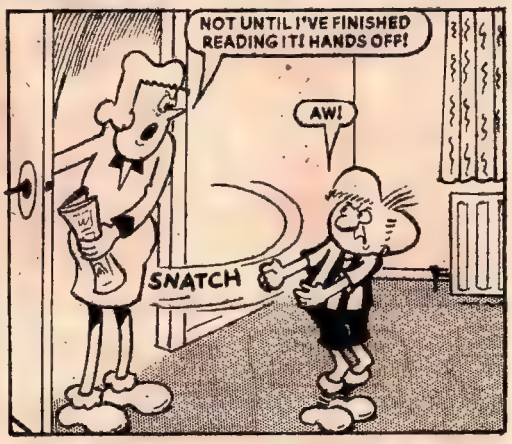
TOWEL. BOOTS— WHERE ARE MY SHINGUARDS?

THEY'VE VANISHED— MUST FIND ANOTHER PAIR.


Soon—
THESE BITS OF PIPING ARE THE RIGHT SHAPE.

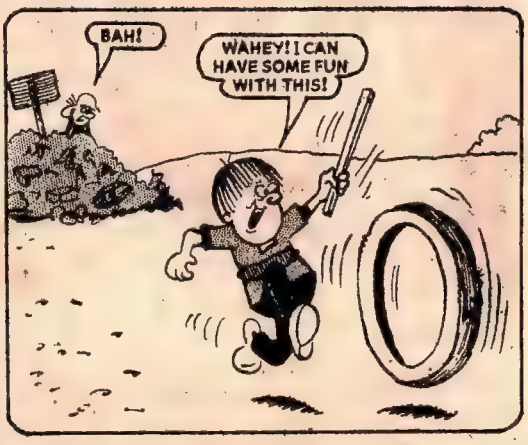

TOO BAD THEY'RE PART OF THE PIPELINE I'M LAYING!
ERK!
GRAB

THIS MAGAZINE WILL DO AS ONE SHINGUARD. ANYWAY.
BEND

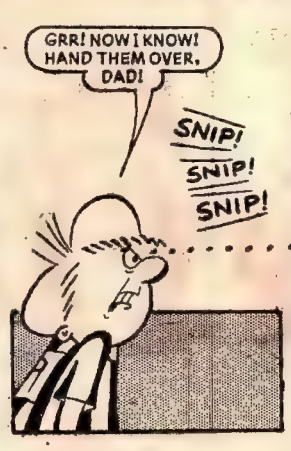

NOT UNTIL I'VE FINISHED READING IT! HANDS OFF!
AW!
SNATCH

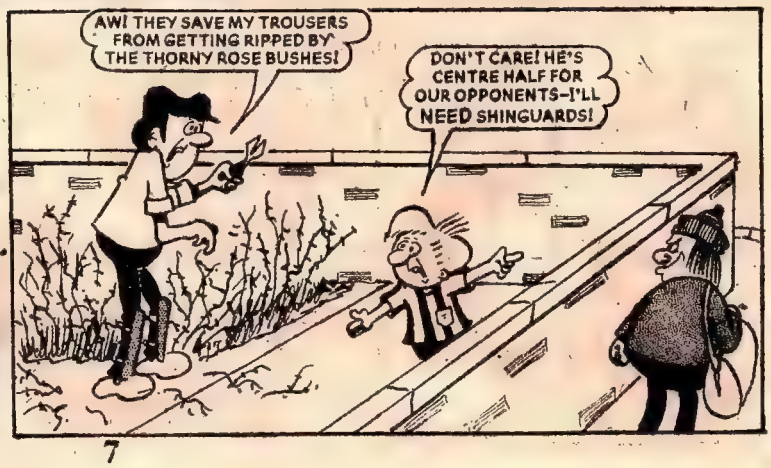
Shortly—
GREAT—AN OLD TYRE! I'LL SOON CUT MYSELF A PAIR OF SHINGUARDS FROM IT.
DUMP

EH? WERE DID IT GO?


BAH!
WAHEY! I CAN HAVE SOME FUN WITH THIS!

WHO COULD BE USING MY SHINGUARDS?
BNO 17.4.82

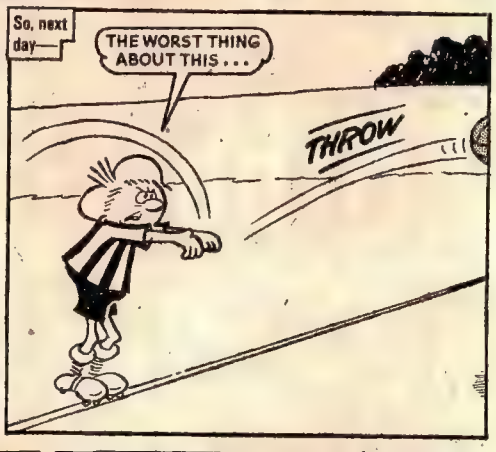

GRR! NOW I KNOW! HAND THEM OVER, DAD!
SNIP!
SNIP!
SNIP!

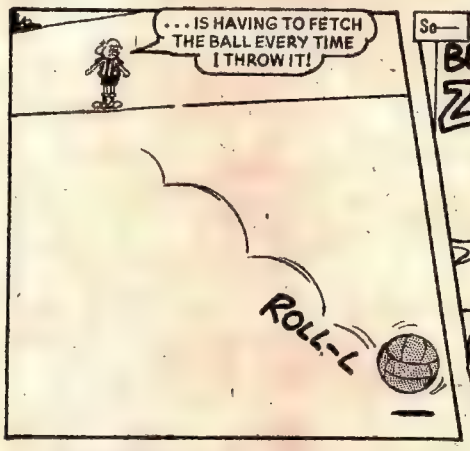

AW! THEY SAVE MY TROUSERS FROM GETTING RIPPED BY THE THORNY ROSE BUSHES!
DON'T CARE! HE'S CENTRE HALF FOR OUR OPPONENTS—I'LL NEED SHINGUARDS!

# BALL BOY

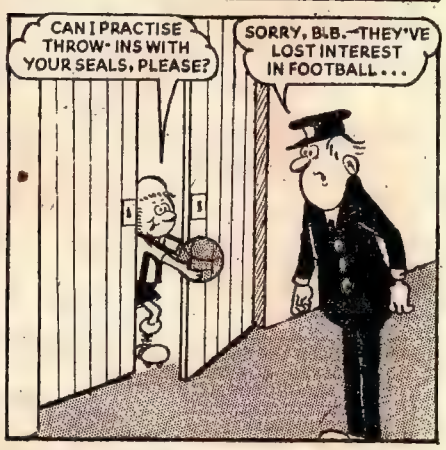
WE LOST 7-0! HOW COME?
BECAUSE OF YOUR AWFUL THROW-INS! YOU KEPT SHYING THE BALL TO THE OTHER TEAM!

MAYBE THEY'RE RIGHT— I'LL TRY TO IMPROVE MY THROW-INS FOR TOMORROW'S GAME.

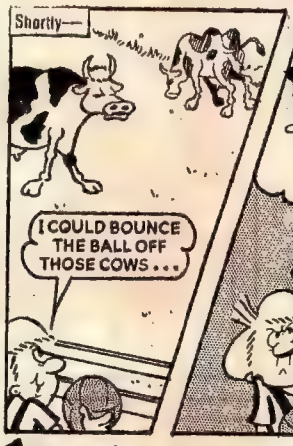

So, next day—
THE WORST THING ABOUT THIS . . .
THROW

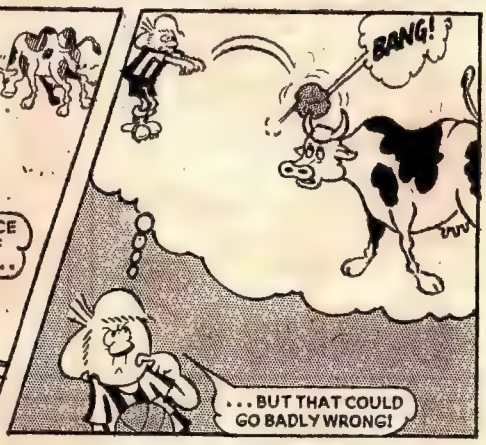

. . . IS HAVING TO FETCH THE BALL EVERY TIME I THROW IT!
ROLL-L

So—
BEANOTOWN ZOO
SEALS LOVE PLAYING WITH FOOTBALLS— THEY MIGHT HELP.

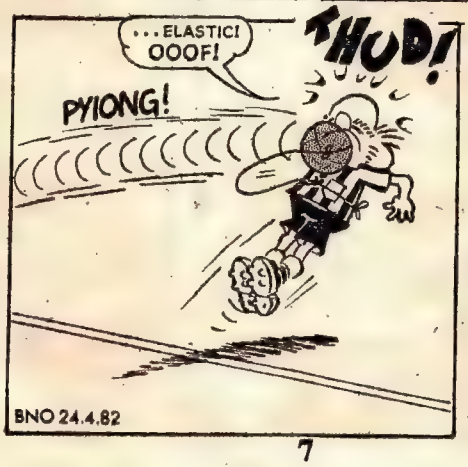

CAN I PRACTISE THROW-INS WITH YOUR SEALS, PLEASE?
SORRY, B.B.—THEY'VE LOST INTEREST IN FOOTBALL . . .

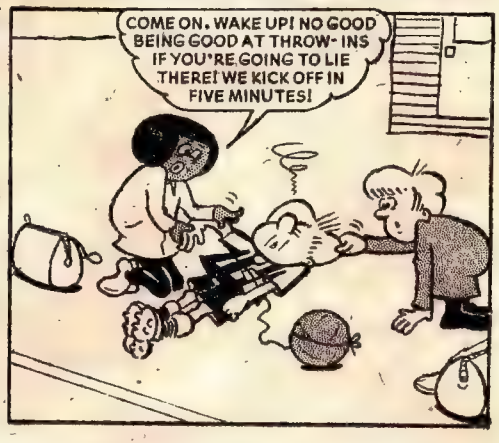
. . . SINCE WE GOT A SPACE INVADER MACHINE IN THE ZOO!
BLEEP! DING! BLOOP!
THE SPACE INVADERS


Shortly—
I COULD BOUNCE THE BALL OFF THOSE COWS . . .


BANG!
. . . BUT THAT COULD GO BADLY WRONG!

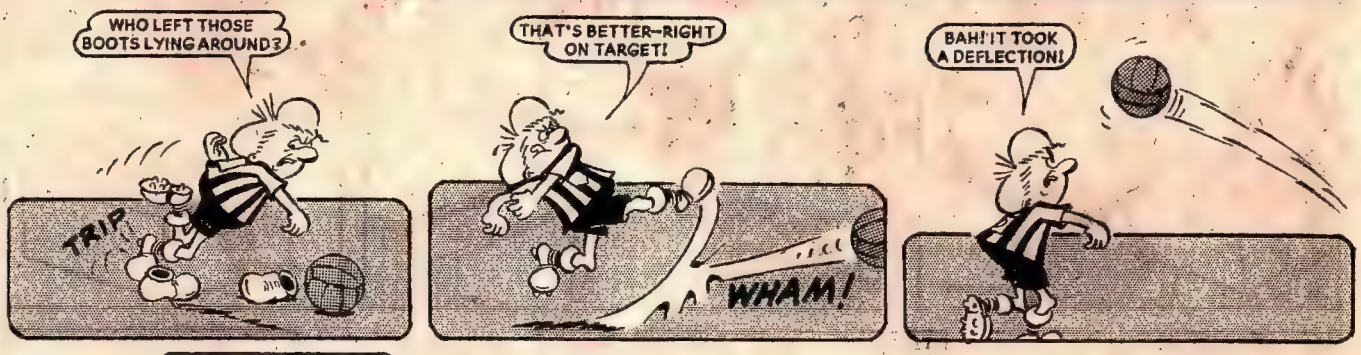
Later—
GOOD THROW, BALL BOY!
HOW DO YOU GET THE BALL BACK, THOUGH?
EASY! I USE SOME . . .
THROW

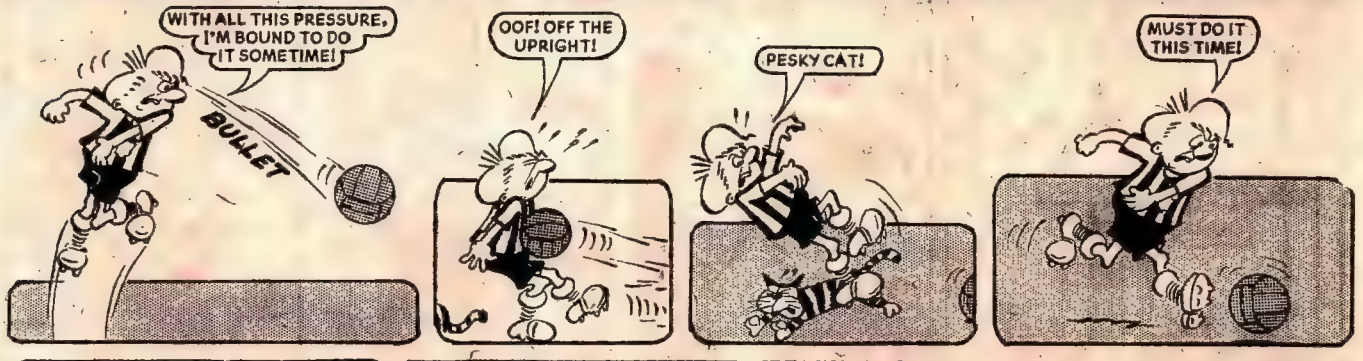

. . . ELASTIC! OOOF!
THUD!
PYIONG!
BNO 24.4.82

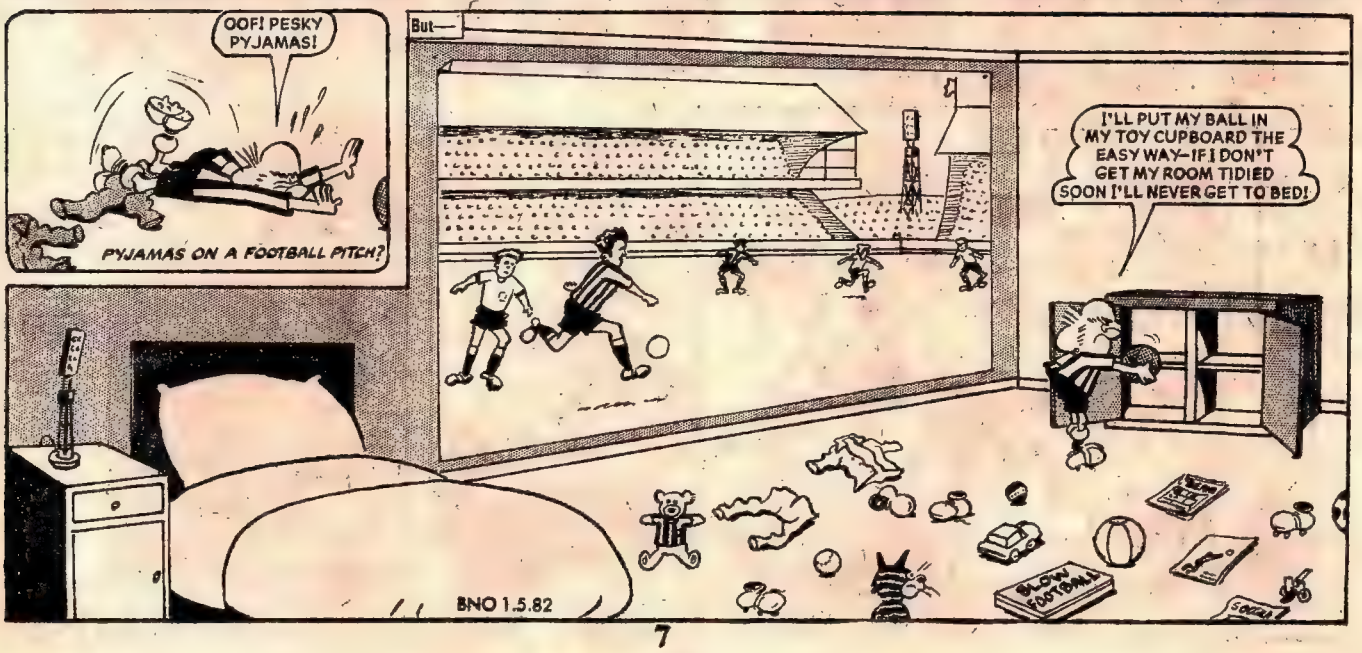

COME ON. WAKE UP! NO GOOD BEING GOOD AT THROW-INS IF YOU'RE GOING TO LIE THERE! WE KICK OFF IN FIVE MINUTES!

# BALL BOY

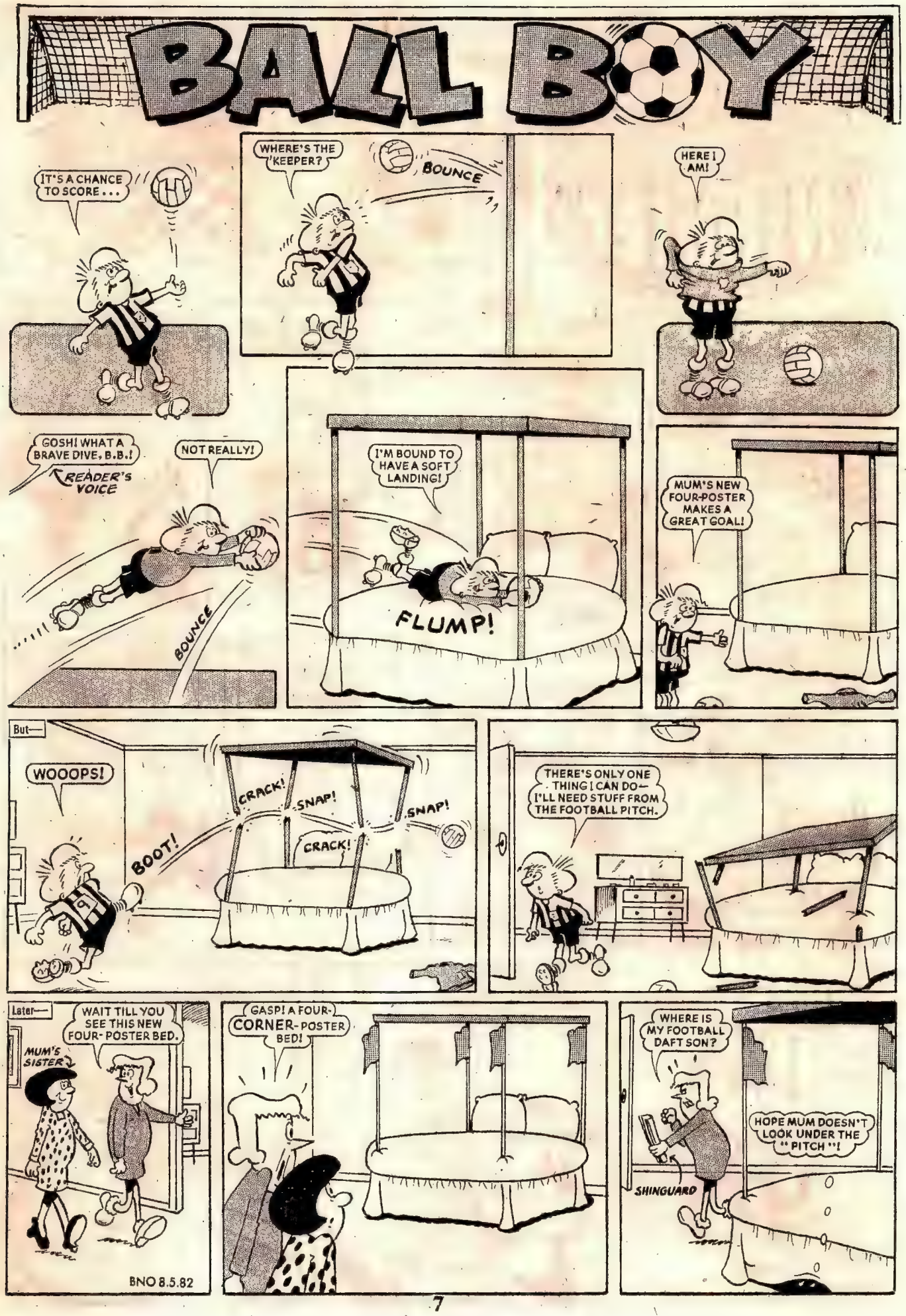
BOOT!
OUCH!
ZUNK!


WHO LEFT THOSE BOOTS LYING AROUND?
TRIP
THAT'S BETTER—RIGHT ON TARGET!
WHAM!
BAH! IT TOOK A DEFLECTION!


WITH ALL THIS PRESSURE, I'M BOUND TO DO IT SOMETIME!
BULLET
OOF! OFF THE UPRIGHT!
PESKY CAT!
MUST DO IT THIS TIME!


OOF! PESKY PYJAMAS!
PYJAMAS ON A FOOTBALL PITCH?
But—
I'LL PUT MY BALL IN MY TOY CUPBOARD THE EASY WAY—IF I DON'T GET MY ROOM TIDIED SOON I'LL NEVER GET TO BED!
GLOW FOOTBALL
SOCKS!
BNO 1.5.82

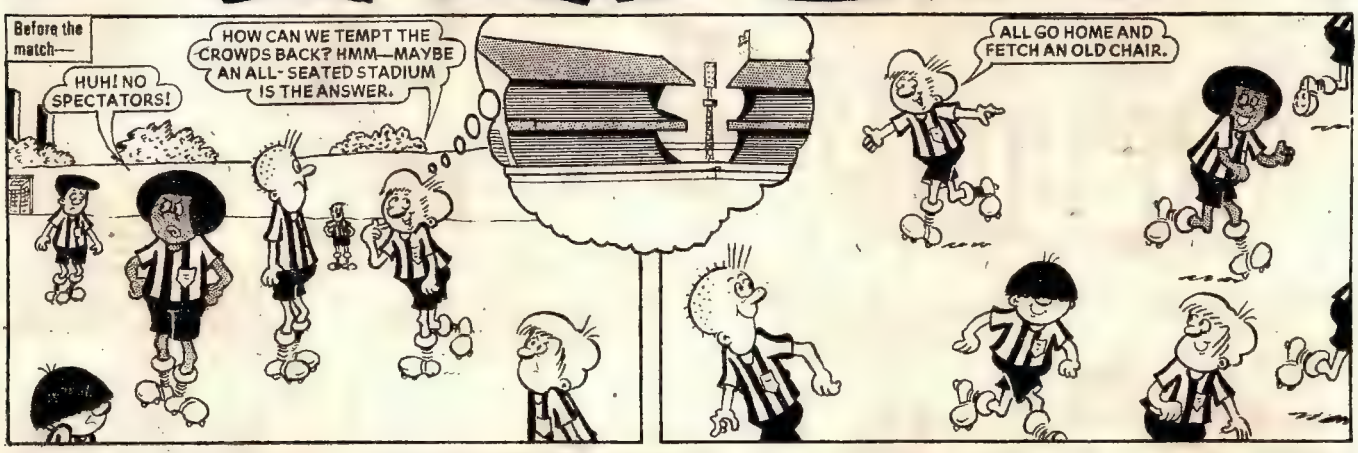
# BALL BOY


IT'S A CHANCE TO SCORE...
WHERE'S THE KEEPER?
BOUNCE
HERE I AM!
GOSH! WHAT A BRAVE DIVE, B.B.!
READER'S VOICE
NOT REALLY!
BOUNCE
I'M BOUND TO HAVE A SOFT LANDING!
FLUMP!
MUM'S NEW FOUR-POSTER MAKES A GREAT GOAL!
But—
WOOOPS!
BOOT!
CRACK!
SNAP!
CRACK!
SNAP!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO— I'LL NEED STUFF FROM THE FOOTBALL PITCH.
Later—
WAIT TILL YOU SEE THIS NEW FOUR-POSTER BED.
MUM'S SISTER
BNO 8.5.82
GASP! A FOUR-CORNER-POSTER BED!
WHERE IS MY FOOTBALL DAFT SON?
HOPE MUM DOESN'T LOOK UNDER THE "PITCH"!
SHINGUARD

# BALL BOY

Before the match—
A LOVELY CHIP SHOT! MUST DO THAT AGAINST OUR OPPONENTS!
The match begins—
THAT'S A CHIP SHOT!
BOOT!
A CHIP SHOT? MORE LIKE A FLAT OUT DRIVE!
Then—
YAHOO! ANOTHER CHIP!
NOD
THAT WASN'T A CHIP! IT WAS A HEADER!
Soon—
ANOTHER CHIP!
NONSENSE! A BACK-HEELER!
TAP
RIGHT! HERE WE GO FOR THE BIG ONE!
LOB
ZIP!
LUNGE
SWERVE
HUH! I SUPPOSE YOU'LL SAY THAT WAS ANOTHER CHIP!
SIDE-STEP
DONK!
BNO 15.5.82
OH, NO! A GOAL AS GOOD AS THAT IS DEFINITELY A FISH!
EH? A FISH?
FISH AND CHIPS
DAD PROMISED HE'D BUY ME FISH AND CHIPS IF I SCORED ENOUGH GOALS TODAY! CHOMP!

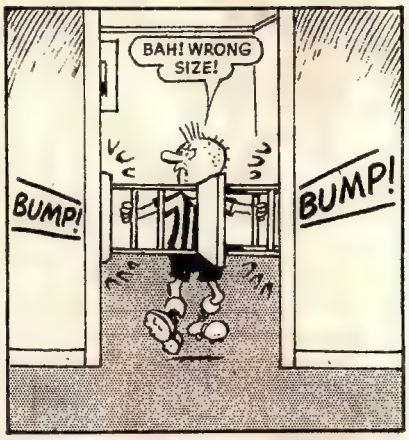
# BALL BOY

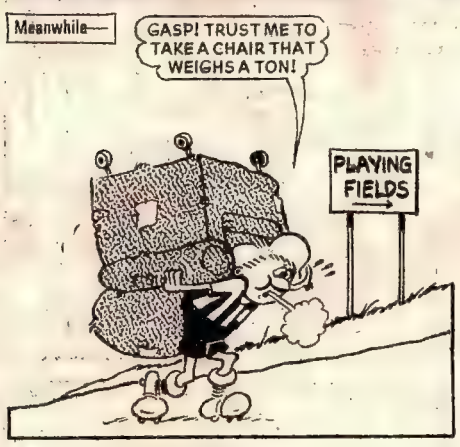

Before the match—
HUH! NO SPECTATORS!
HOW CAN WE TEMPT THE CROWDS BACK? HMM—MAYBE AN ALL-SEATED STADIUM IS THE ANSWER.
ALL GO HOME AND FETCH AN OLD CHAIR.

So—
AH! THIS'LL DO.

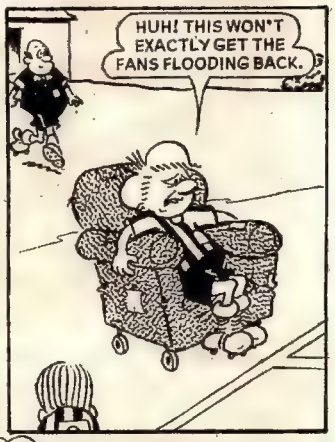
HEY, BENJY! I USED THAT TO GET UP IN THE LOFT—PUT IT BACK!
AW, DAD!

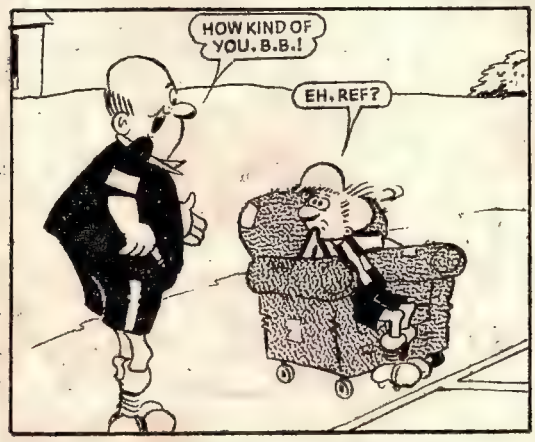
At Dimmy's home—
THIS'LL DO.

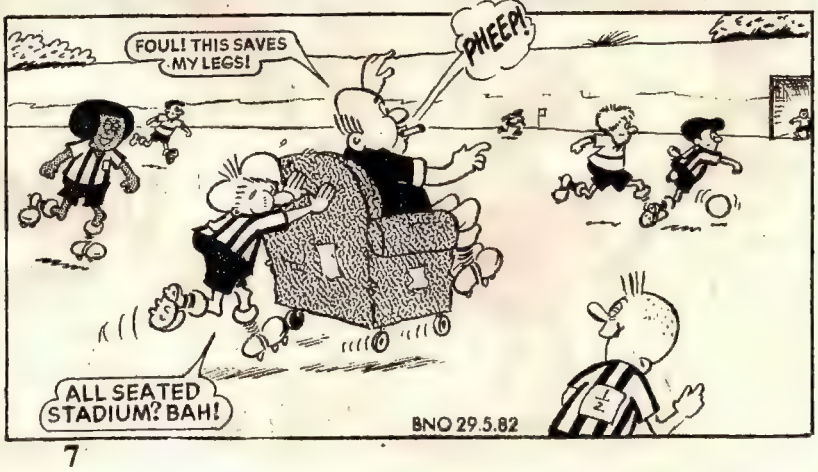

BAH! WRONG SIZE!
BUMP!
BUMP!


Meanwhile—
GASP! TRUST ME TO TAKE A CHAIR THAT WEIGHS A TON!
PLAYING FIELDS

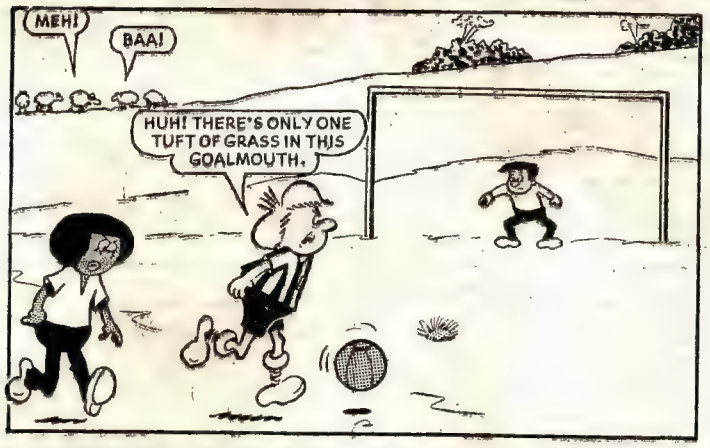
But—
I COULDN'T GET A CHAIR.
WE HAD VISITORS.
OUR DOG WAS SLEEPING IN THE SPARE ONE.

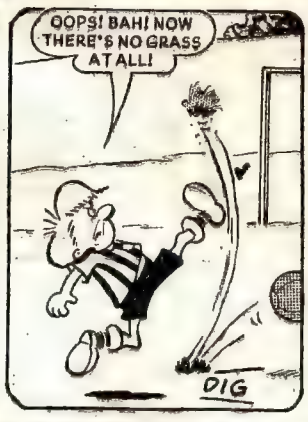

HUH! THIS WON'T EXACTLY GET THE FANS FLOODING BACK.


HOW KIND OF YOU, B.B.!
EH, REF?

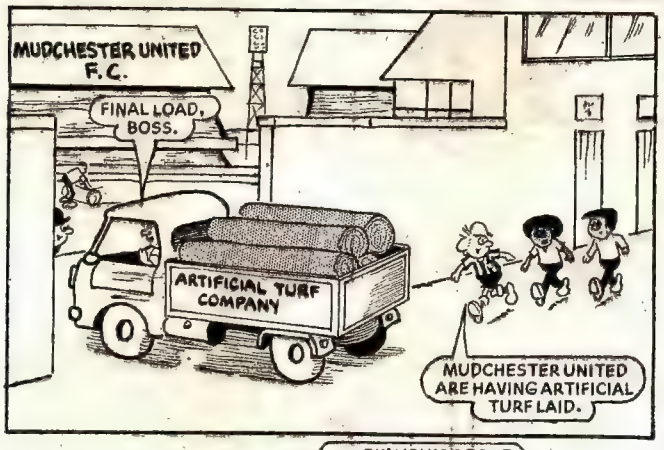

FOUL! THIS SAVES MY LEGS!
PHEEP!
ALL SEATED STADIUM? BAH!
BNO 29.5.82

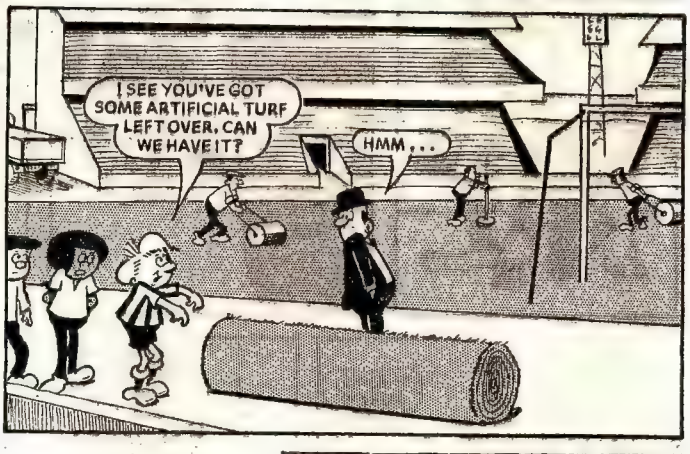
# BALL BOY


MEH!
BAA!
HUH! THERE'S ONLY ONE TUFT OF GRASS IN THIS GOALMOUTH.

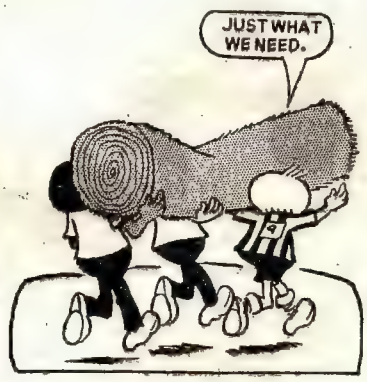

OOPS! BAH! NOW THERE'S NO GRASS AT ALL!
DIG

HEY! COME WITH ME, BOYS!
IDEA


MUDCHESTER UNITED F.C.
FINAL LOAD, BOSS.
ARTIFICIAL TURF COMPANY
MUDCHESTER UNITED ARE HAVING ARTIFICIAL TURF LAID.


I SEE YOU'VE GOT SOME ARTIFICIAL TURF LEFT OVER. CAN WE HAVE IT?
HMM...

YAHOO!
...OK! YOU'RE GOOD SUPPORTERS OF OUR TEAM!


JUST WHAT WE NEED.

And—
OUR GOALMOUTH LOOKS GREAT NOW.

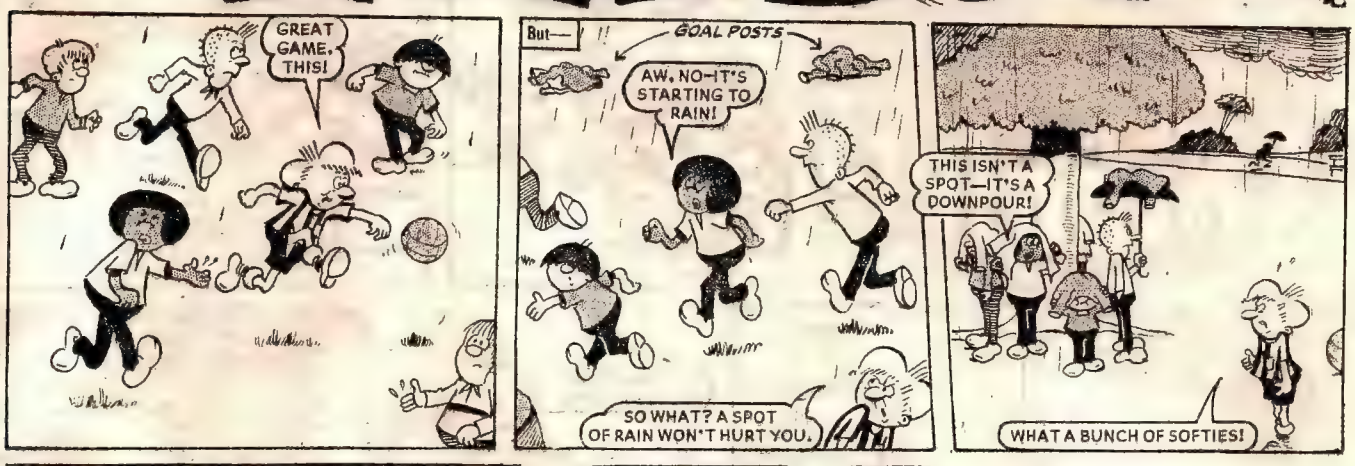
WOW! LOOK AT THAT LOVELY GREEN GRASS—THESE KIDS MUST HAVE PLANTED IT FOR US! LET'S HAVE A FEED!

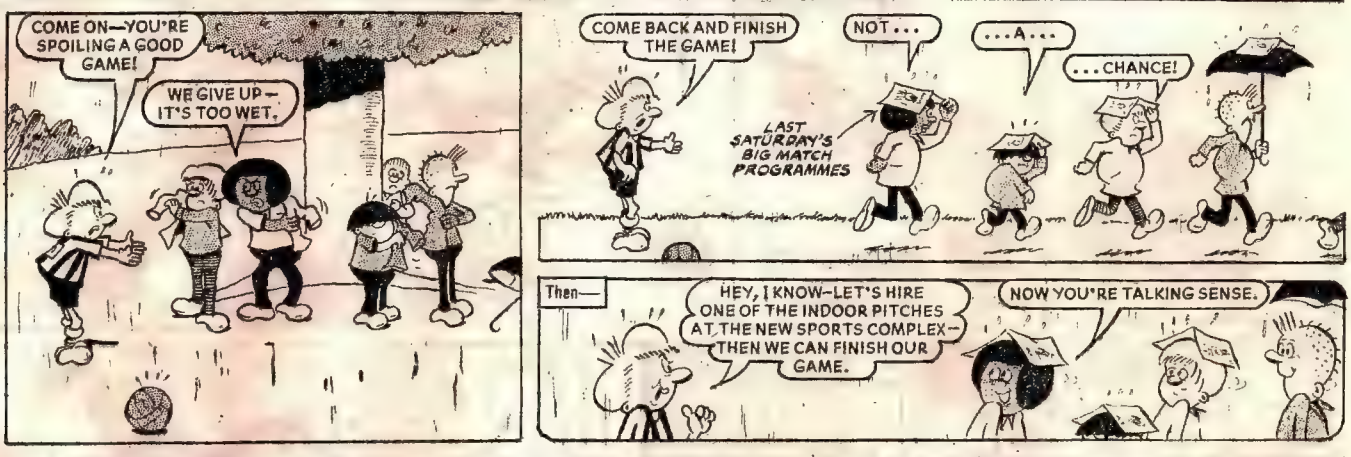
YUM! YUM!

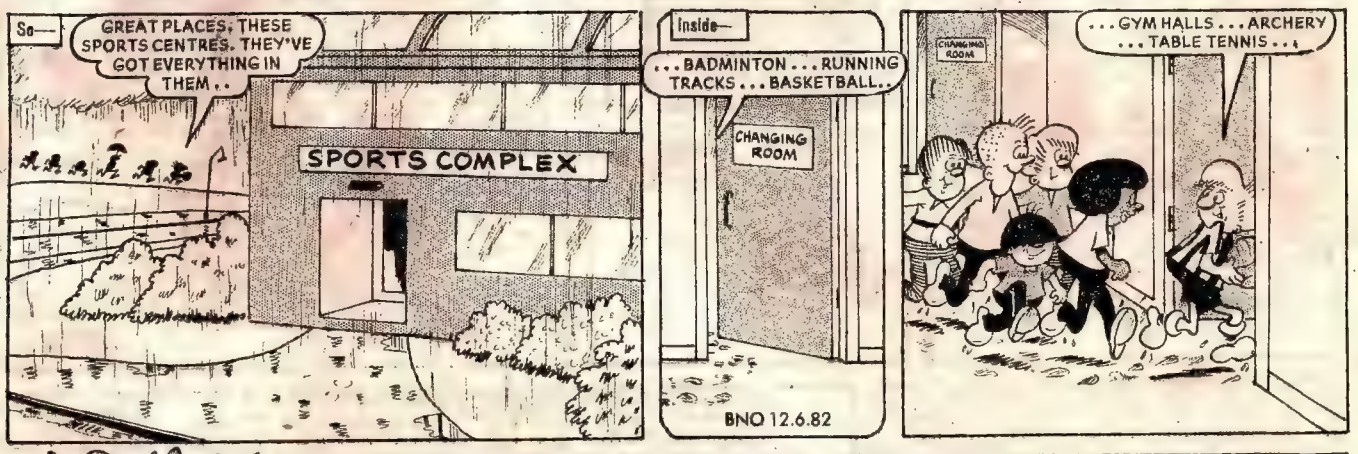
YUCH!

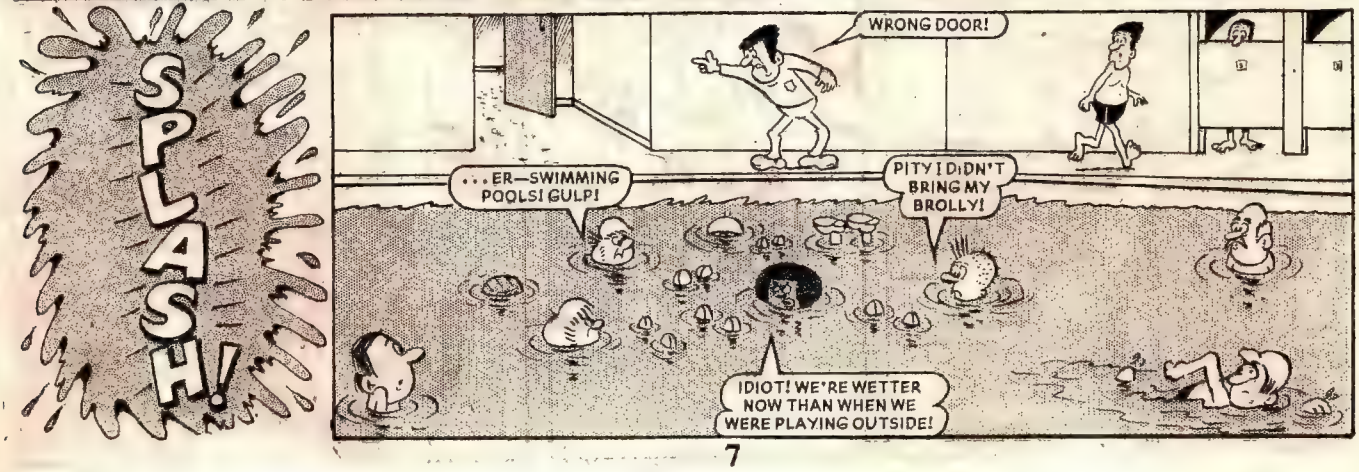
GULP! WISH THAT RAM WAS ARTIFICIAL!
TRICK ME, EH?
BNO 5.6.82

# BALL BOY


GREAT GAME, THIS!
But—
GOAL POSTS
AW, NO—IT'S STARTING TO RAIN!
SO WHAT? A SPOT OF RAIN WON'T HURT YOU.
THIS ISN'T A SPOT—IT'S A DOWNPOUR!
WHAT A BUNCH OF SOFTIES!


COME ON—YOU'RE SPOILING A GOOD GAME!
WE GIVE UP—IT'S TOO WET.
COME BACK AND FINISH THE GAME!
NOT . . .
. . . A . . .
. . . CHANCE!
LAST SATURDAY'S BIG MATCH PROGRAMMES
Then—
HEY, I KNOW—LET'S HIRE ONE OF THE INDOOR PITCHES AT THE NEW SPORTS COMPLEX—THEN WE CAN FINISH OUR GAME.
NOW YOU'RE TALKING SENSE.


So—
GREAT PLACES, THESE SPORTS CENTRES. THEY'VE GOT EVERYTHING IN THEM . .
SPORTS COMPLEX
Inside—
. . . BADMINTON . . . RUNNING TRACKS . . . BASKETBALL . .
CHANGING ROOM
BNO 12.6.82
CHANGING ROOM
. . . GYM HALLS . . . ARCHERY . . . TABLE TENNIS . . .


SPLASH!
WRONG DOOR!
. . . ER—SWIMMING POOLS! GULP!
PITY I DIDN'T BRING MY BROLLY!
IDIOT! WE'RE WETTER NOW THAN WHEN WE WERE PLAYING OUTSIDE!

# BALL BOY

YOU KNOW, DIMMY—WE SHOULD WEAR ADVERTISING ON OUR SHIRTS, AND GET PAID FOR IT. LET'S TRY THE LOCAL SHOPS.

Baby Wear

LET'S GET STARTED, THEN.

OPEN

ER—WE'LL TRY SOME LESS SOPPY SHOPS FIRST!

PULL

I'LL SEE TO THIS BUSINESS MYSELF. DIMMY—GO AND TELL THE OTHERS ABOUT IT.

OK, B.B.!

Bert's ART DEALER

I'LL TRY HERE—WE DRAW A LOT OF OUR GAMES, ANYWAY!

GREAT IDEA—YOUR JERSEYS COULD CARRY MY SHOP'S INITIALS.

BERT'S for POSTERS COLOURS INKS BRUSHES PENS

B.A.D.

ER—NO! WE'RE BAD ENOUGH WITHOUT TELLING EVERYONE!

Shortly, in Carlo's cafe—

RIGHT—YOU CAN ADVERTISE MY ICE CREAM. FREE HELPINGS AFTER THE MATCH.

CARLO'S CAFE
ICES
TEAS
COFFEE
DRINKS
CAKES

WOW!

So before the match—

RIGHT, BOYS—STICK THESE ON YOUR SHIRTS.

CARLO'S CAFE

CARLO'S CAFE

AW, NO! A BLUNDER!

HE'S TODAY'S REFEREE—HE'S GOT AN ICE CREAM BUSINESS, TOO!

McPHEEP'S ICES

BNO 19.6.82

When the ref. gets changed—

SNARL! ADVERTISING RIVAL ICE CREAM, ARE YOU?

DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO WIN TODAY!

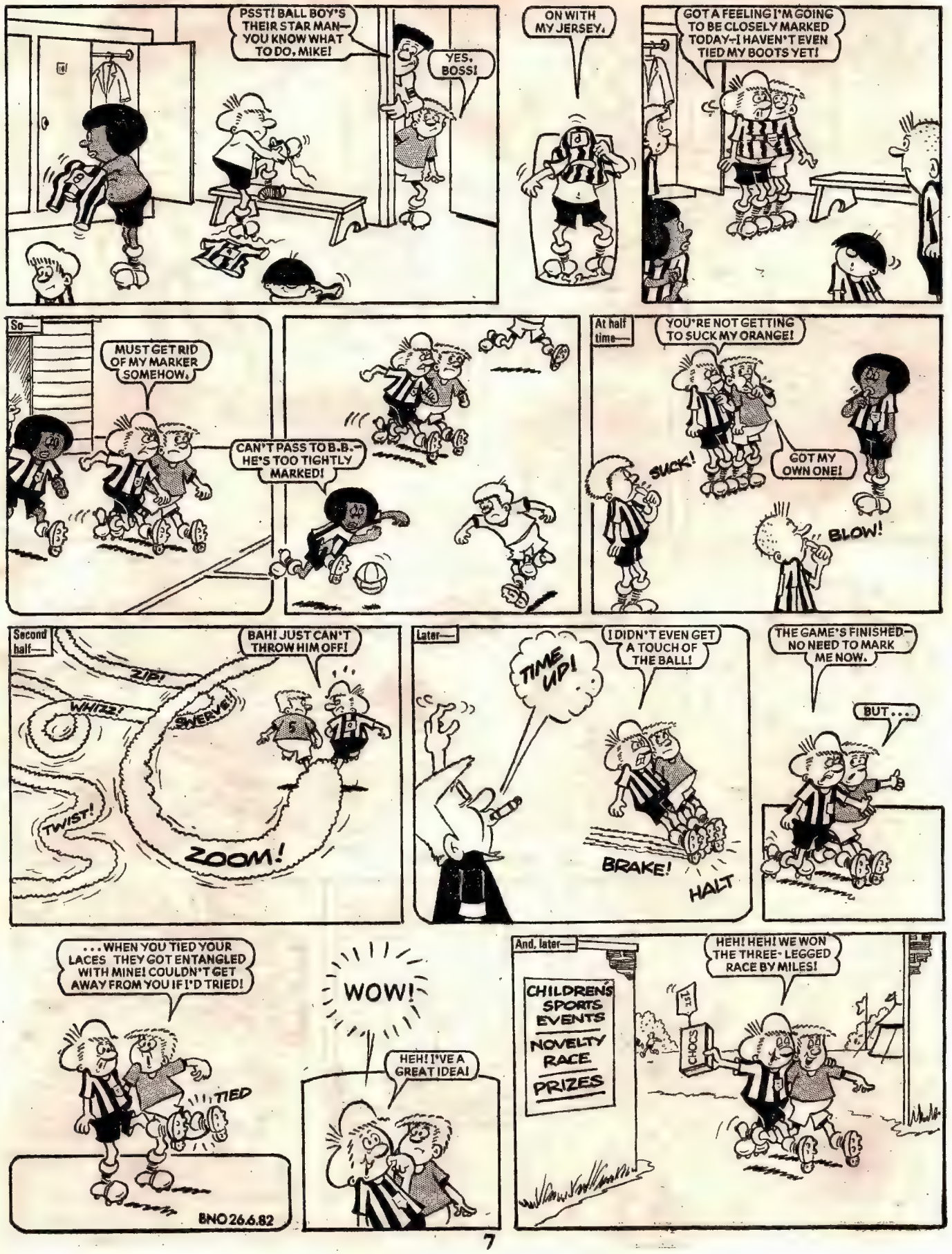
CARLO'S CAFE

Later—

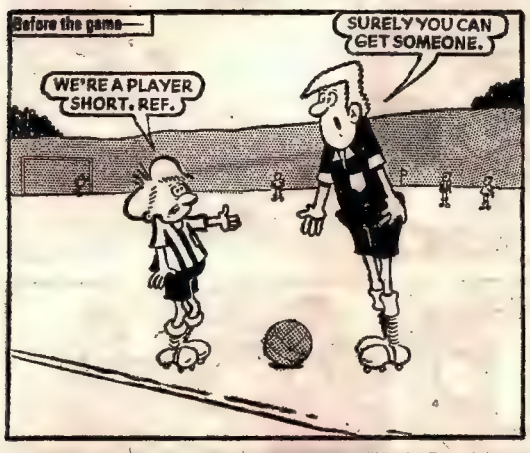
WE LOST TEN-NIL—FOUR OFFSIDE GOALS AND SIX CRAZY PENALTIES! ADVERTISING? BAH!

CARLO'S

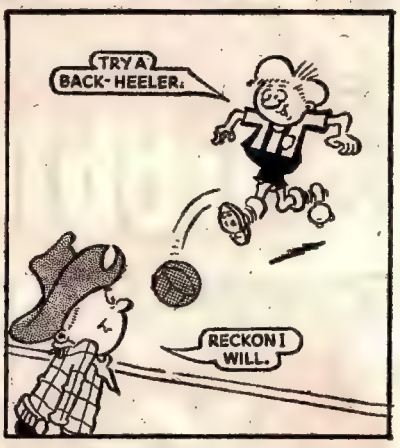
# BALL BOY

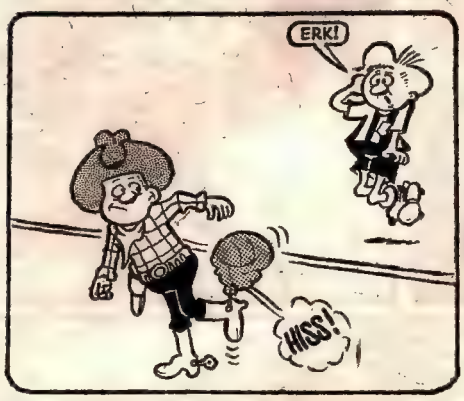

PSST! BALL BOY'S THEIR STAR MAN— YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, MIKE!
YES, BOSS!
ON WITH MY JERSEY.
GOT A FEELING I'M GOING TO BE CLOSELY MARKED TODAY—I HAVEN'T EVEN TIED MY BOOTS YET!
So—
MUST GET RID OF MY MARKER SOMEHOW.
CAN'T PASS TO B.B.— HE'S TOO TIGHTLY MARKED!
At half time—
YOU'RE NOT GETTING TO SUCK MY ORANGE!
SUCK!
GOT MY OWN ONE!
BLOW!
Second half—
BAH! JUST CAN'T THROW HIM OFF!
ZIP!
WHIZZ!
SWERVE!
TWIST!
ZOOM!
Later—
TIME UP!
I DIDN'T EVEN GET A TOUCH OF THE BALL!
BRAKE!
HALT
THE GAME'S FINISHED— NO NEED TO MARK ME NOW.
BUT...
...WHEN YOU TIED YOUR LACES THEY GOT ENTANGLED WITH MINE! COULDN'T GET AWAY FROM YOU IF I'D TRIED!
TIED
BNO 26.6.82
WOW!
HEH! I'VE A GREAT IDEA!
And, later—
CHILDRENS SPORTS EVENTS
NOVELTY RACE
PRIZES
HEH! HEH! WE WON THE THREE-LEGGED RACE BY MILES!
CHOCS

# BALL BOY

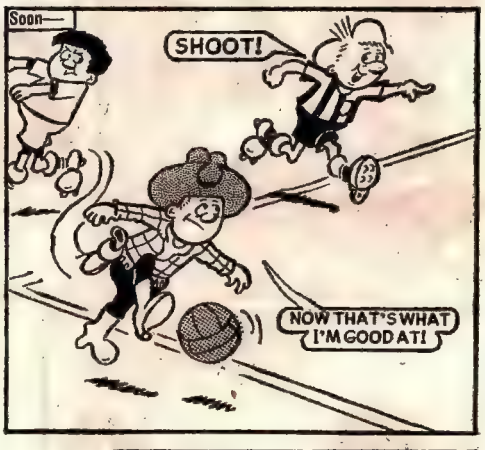

Before the game—
WE'RE A PLAYER SHORT, REF.
SURELY YOU CAN GET SOMEONE.

HEY! YOU'LL DO!
ME?
GOT A COWBOY OUTFIT FOR HIS BIRTHDAY!

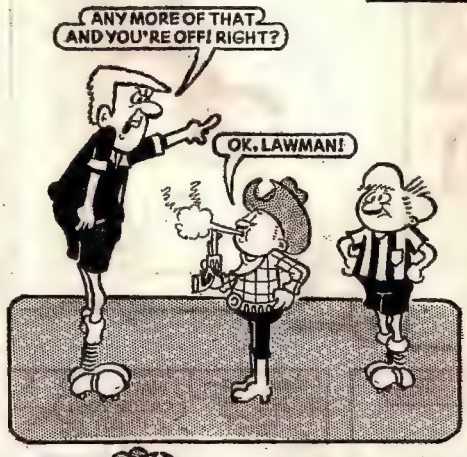

TRY A BACK-HEELER.
RECKON I WILL.

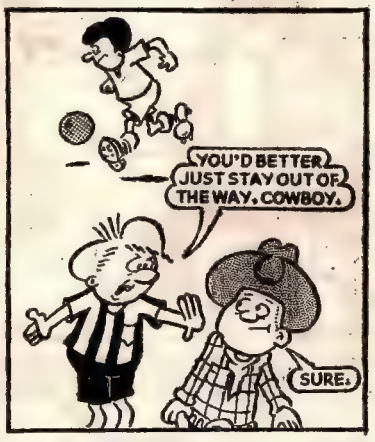

ERK!
HISS!

TAKE THOSE THINGS OFF— YOU'RE NOT PLAYING FOR "SPURS"!


Soon—
SHOOT!
NOW THAT'S WHAT I'M GOOD AT!

BANG!
BANG!
BANG!


ANY MORE OF THAT AND YOU'RE OFF! RIGHT?
OK, LAWMAN!


YOU'D BETTER JUST STAY OUT OF THE WAY, COWBOY.
SURE.

With seconds to go—
OH, NO! MUST BE THE WINNING GOAL FOR THEM!
THUMP!
BNO 10.7.82

FASTER, SILVER!
KICK
BRILLIANT! HE'S SAVED THE GAME WHILE PLAYING AT HORSES!

NO MORE FOOTBALL— I'M GOING BACK TO THE BUNKHOUSE!
WE DIDN'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO THANK HIM!
BALLOP

# BALL BOY

B.B.'s off to his team's match—

IT CAN'T BE—BUT IT IS—KEVIN KNEEGAN, UNITED'S STAR PLAYER!

KEVIN, COULD I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH, PLEASE?

SURE! DO YOU HAVE A PIECE OF PAPER?

WOULD A CHEWING GUM WRAPPER DO?

HOW ABOUT YOUR BALL?

So—

COO! WAIT UNTIL MY TEAM SEE THIS!

Kevin Keegan

At the dressing rooms—

GOSH!

LOOK, LADS—IT'S KEVIN KNEEGAN'S SIGNATURE!

OUR ONLY BALL'S GOT KEVIN'S AUTOGRAPH!

Soon—

KICK OFF!

PASS

I'VE PASSED IT STRAIGHT TO B.B.—GOOD! HE'S MISSED IT!

COO! HE SHOULD HAVE HEADED THAT CLEAR!

DUCK

HOW DID THE GOALIE MISS THAT?

SOFT SHOT

After—

Kevin Keegan

WE LOST 23-0! WE WOULDN'T RISK SMUDGING KEVIN'S AUTOGRAPH BY KICKING THE BALL!

WE CAN KICK OURSELVES, THOUGH!

YES—THE OTHER SIDE COULD HAVE SMUDGED IT!

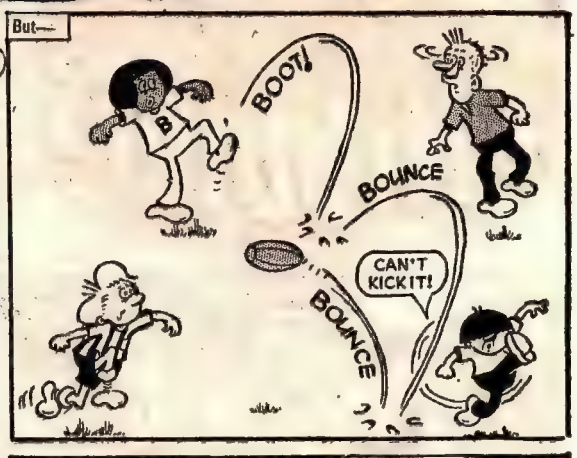
THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

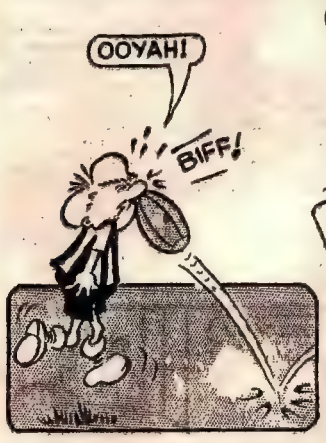
BNO 17.7.82

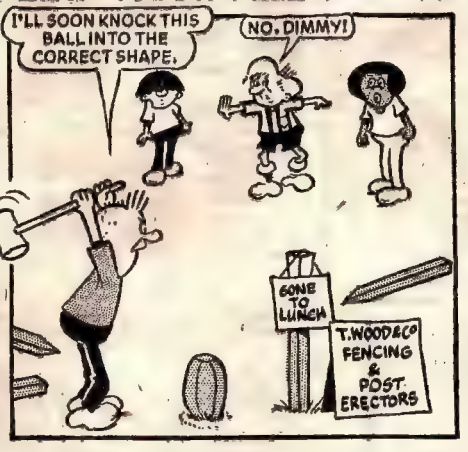
# BALL BOY

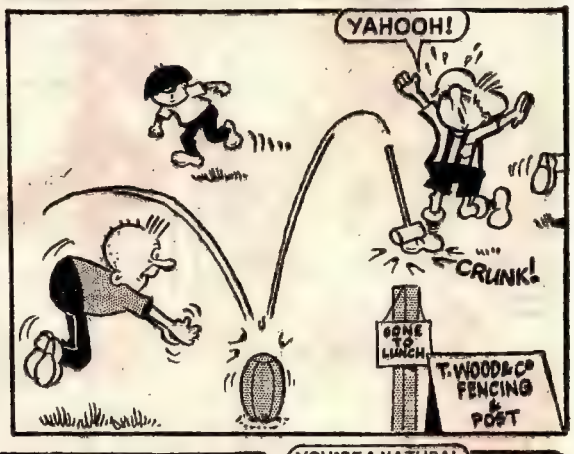
WHERE'S BALL BOY WITH THE BALL? WE'RE ITCHING TO GET OUR KICK-ABOUT STARTED.

Then—
SORRY, PALS—COULDN'T FIND OUR ONE AND ONLY FOOTBALL.. THIS RUGBY BALL I BORROWED FROM ANDY IRVINE WILL HAVE TO DO!

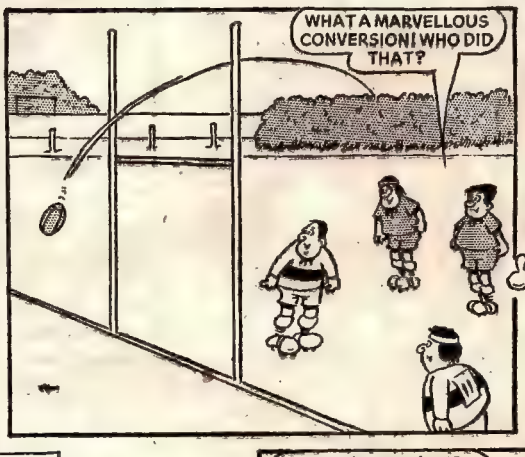

But—
BOOT!
BOUNCE
CAN'T KICK IT!
BOUNCE


OOYAH!
BIFF!

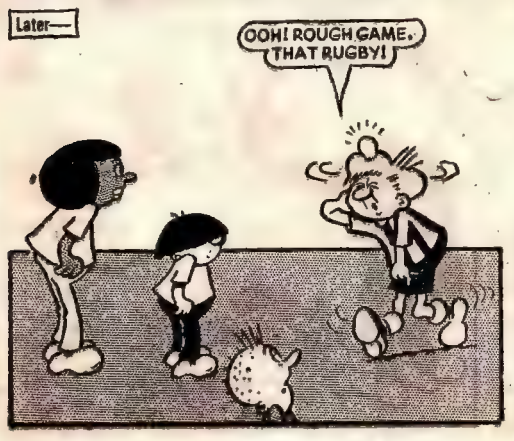

I'LL SOON KNOCK THIS BALL INTO THE CORRECT SHAPE.
NO, DIMMY!
GONE TO LUNCH
T.WOOD&Co FENCING & POST ERECTORS


YAHOOH!
CRUNK!
GONE TO LUNCH
T.WOOD&Co FENCING & POST

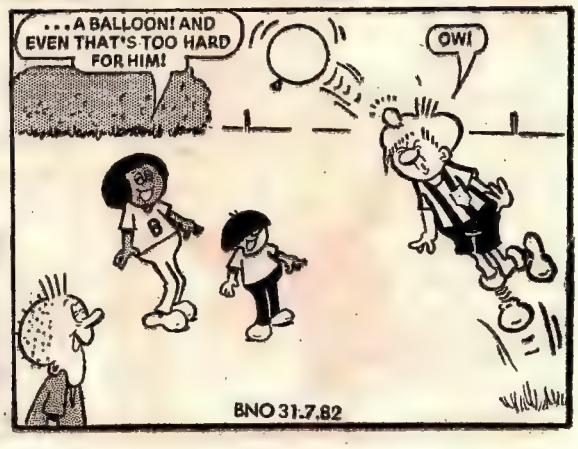
BAH! PESKY BALL!
THUMP!


WHAT A MARVELLOUS CONVERSION! WHO DID THAT?

YOU'RE A NATURAL KICKER! JOIN US!


Later—
OOH! ROUGH GAME, THAT RUGBY!

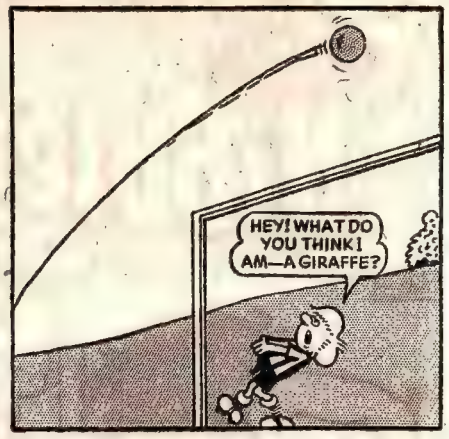
Soon—
B.B.'S GOT A ROUND BALL AT LAST...

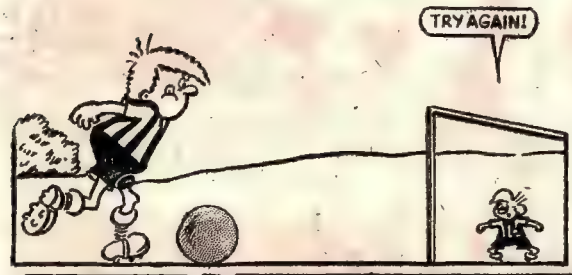

...A BALLOON! AND EVEN THAT'S TOO HARD FOR HIM!
OW!
BNO 31.7.82

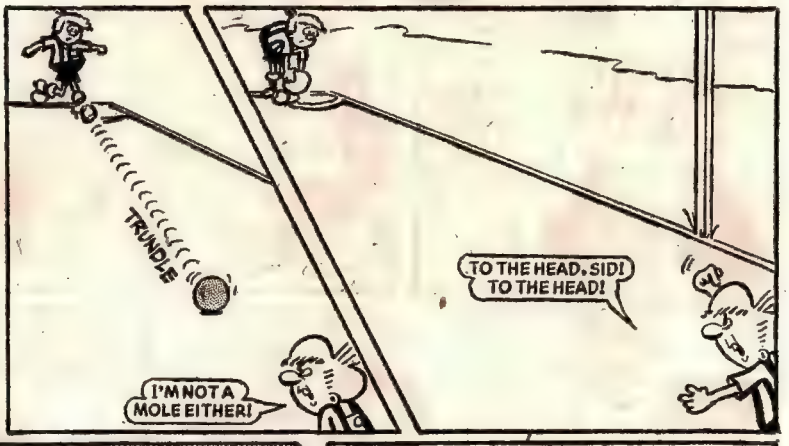
# BALL BOY

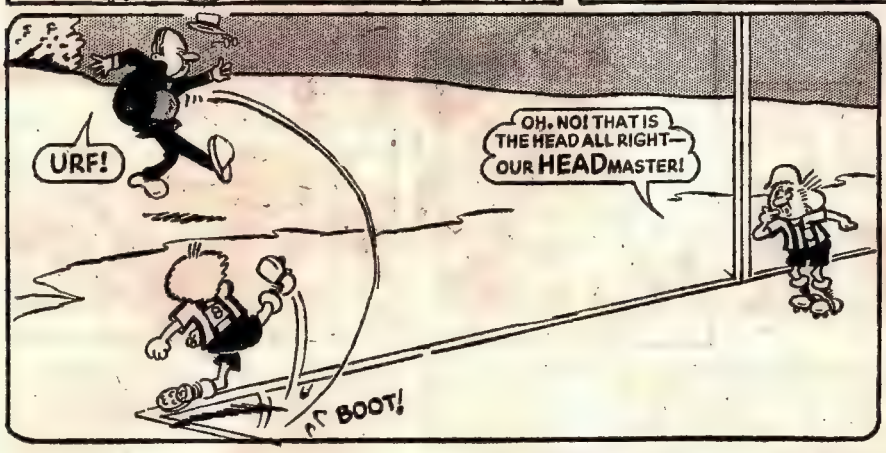
YOUR CORNER-KICK TAKING HAS BEEN LETTING THE SIDE DOWN RECENTLY, SID. LET'S DO SOME PRACTICE.
BOUNCE

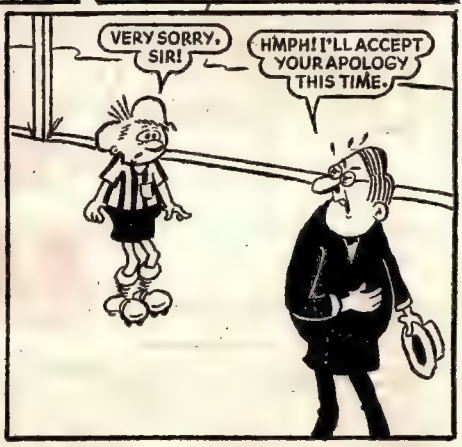
So—
OK, SID— PUT IT RIGHT TO MY HEAD.

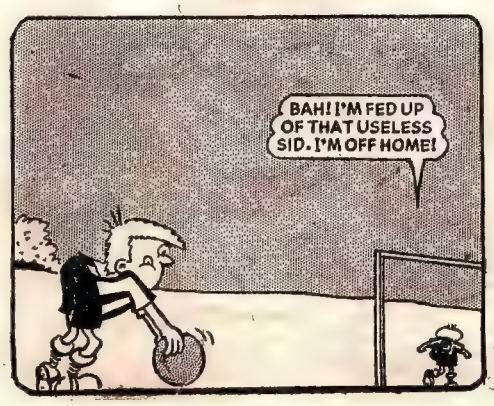

HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM—A GIRAFFE?

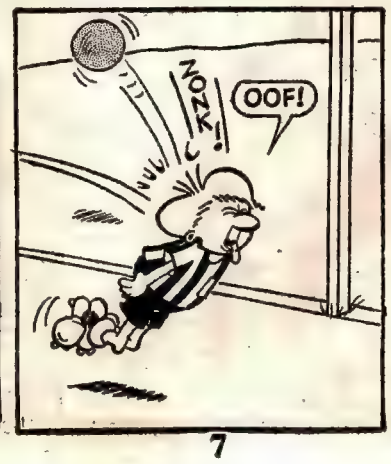

TRY AGAIN!

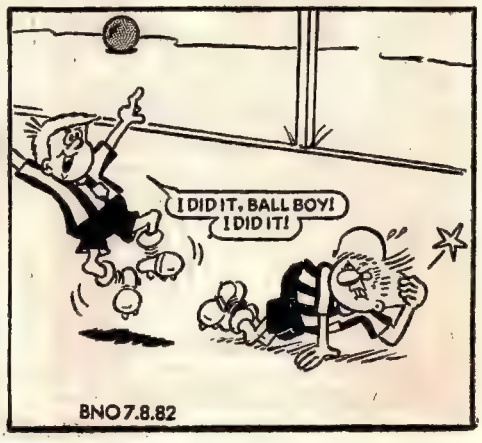

TRUNDLE
TO THE HEAD, SID! TO THE HEAD!
I'M NOT A MOLE EITHER!


URF!
OH, NO! THAT IS THE HEAD ALL RIGHT— OUR HEADMASTER!
BOOT!

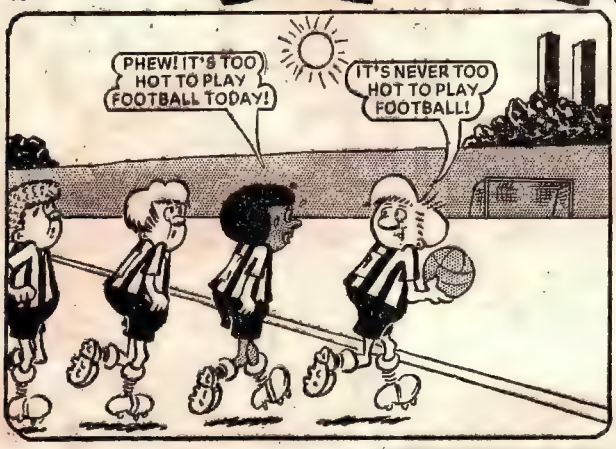

VERY SORRY, SIR!
HMPH! I'LL ACCEPT YOUR APOLOGY THIS TIME.


BAH! I'M FED UP OF THAT USELESS SID. I'M OFF HOME!


NONK!
OOF!

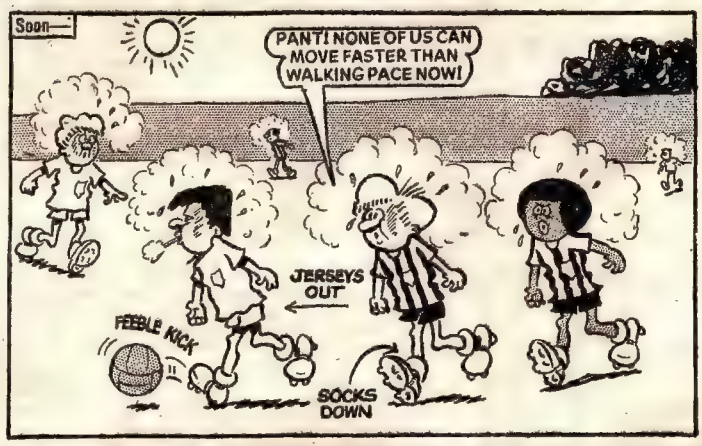

I DID IT, BALL BOY! I DID IT!
BNO 7.8.82

# BALL BOY


PHEW! IT'S TOO HOT TO PLAY FOOTBALL TODAY!
IT'S NEVER TOO HOT TO PLAY FOOTBALL!

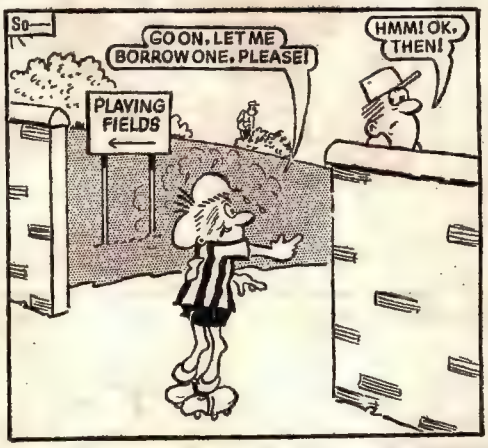
But—
PUFF!
PUFF! GASP!
PANT!
GASP!
GASP!
GASP! WELL, IT IS A BIT HOT!

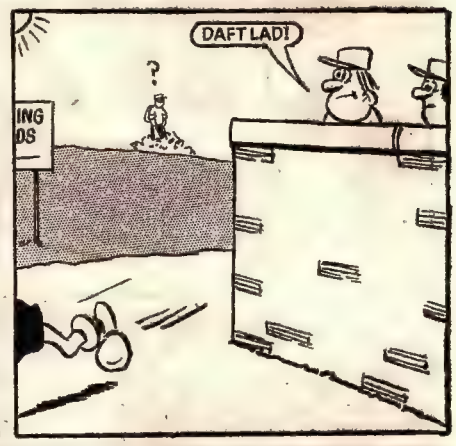
PHEW! I'M BECOMING AS SLOW AS THE REST OF THEM!

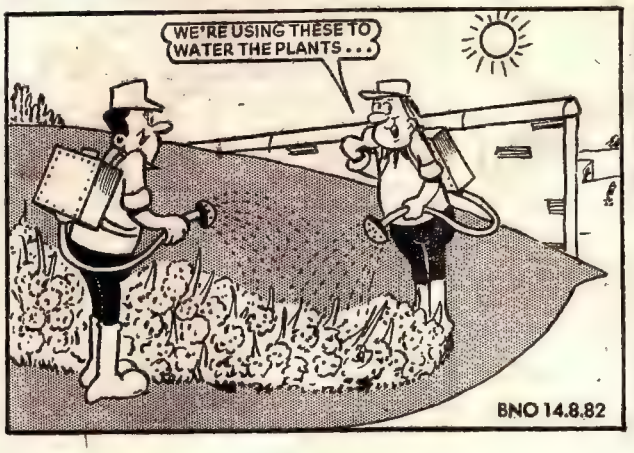

Soon—
PANT! NONE OF US CAN MOVE FASTER THAN WALKING PACE NOW!
JERSEYS OUT
FEEBLE KICK
SOCKS DOWN

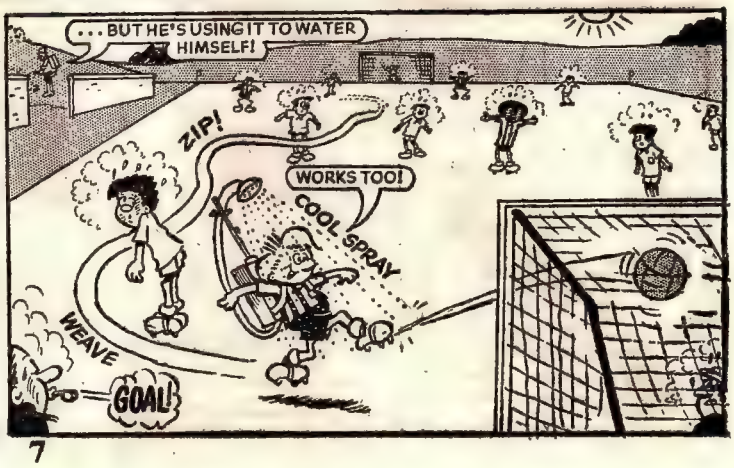
JUST THINK IF THERE WAS SOME WAY I COULD KEEP MYSELF COOL! COULD RUN RINGS ROUND EVERYBODY ELSE!

HEY! LOOK AT THAT!

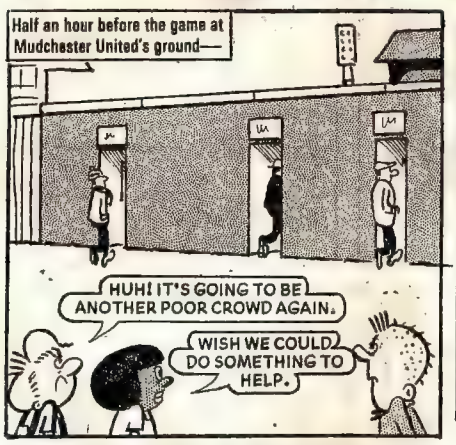

So—
GO ON, LET ME BORROW ONE, PLEASE!
HMM! OK, THEN!
PLAYING FIELDS


DAFT LAD!


WE'RE USING THESE TO WATER THE PLANTS...
BNO 14.8.82

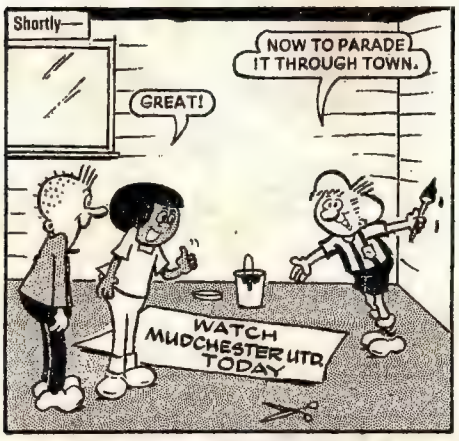

...BUT HE'S USING IT TO WATER HIMSELF!
ZIP!
WORKS TOO!
COOL SPRAY
WEAVE
GOAL!

# BALL BOY

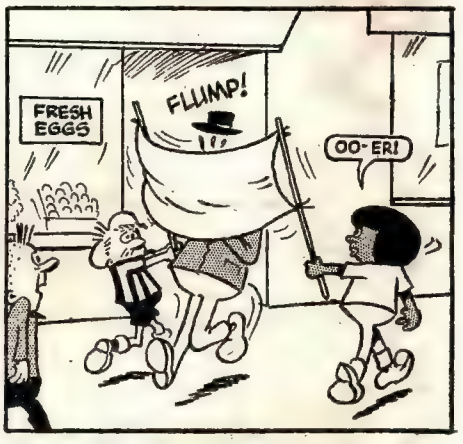

Half an hour before the game at Mudchester United's ground—
HUH! IT'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER POOR CROWD AGAIN.
WISH WE COULD DO SOMETHING TO HELP.

THE MANAGER WOULD BE OVER THE MOON IF WE GOT MORE PEOPLE IN.
MAYBE WE CAN —LOOK!

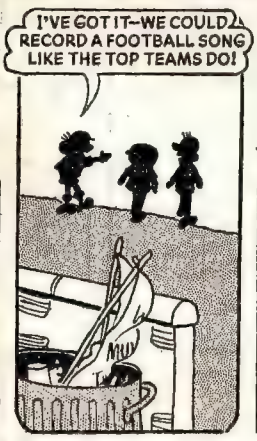
NEVER BE WITHOUT A "BEANO"
THAT'S IT—ADVERTISING! BACK TO OUR HUT, LADS!
COO! GOT A 'PLANE IN OUR HUT, HAVE YOU, B.B.?


Shortly—
NOW TO PARADE IT THROUGH TOWN.
GREAT!
WATCH MUDCHESTER UTD TODAY

WATCH THAT USELESS LOT? THEY'D HAVE TO PAY ME FIRST! CHUCKLE!
NOT WORKING WELL, IS IT?
WATCH MUDCHESTER UTD TODAY


FRESH EGGS
FLUMP!
OO-ER!

YOU'VE SMASHED MY EGGS! NOW I'LL HAVE TO GO HOME AND CHANGE—I'LL MISS THE MATCH!
ERK! INSTEAD OF GETTING SUPPORTERS, WE'VE LOST ONE!

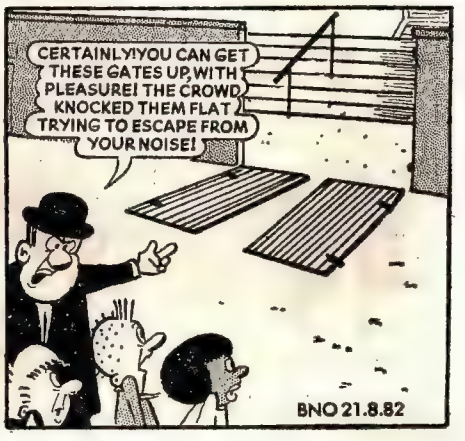

I'VE GOT IT—WE COULD RECORD A FOOTBALL SONG LIKE THE TOP TEAMS DO!

So, outside the ground—
SEE UNITED WIN SIX-NIL! IF YOU DON'T COME IN, YOU NEVER WILL!

WAIL! TWANG! HOWL!
MY POOR EARS!
OOH! AWFUL!

I'M GOING HOME TO MY WIFE AND SIX SCREAMING KIDS— IT'S QUIETER!
ME, TOO!
SNARL! NOW THERE'S NOBODY LEFT TO WATCH THE TEAM PLAY!

BUT WE JUST WANTED TO HELP YOU GET THE GATES UP, MR MANAGER!
YOU STILL CAN!
WE CAN?


CERTAINLY! YOU CAN GET THESE GATES UP, WITH PLEASURE! THE CROWD KNOCKED THEM FLAT TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM YOUR NOISE!
BNO 21.8.82

# BALL BOY

COO! MY TEAM PLAY GREEN STREET ROVERS ON SATURDAY, SO . . .
BACK STREET LEAGUE FIXTURE

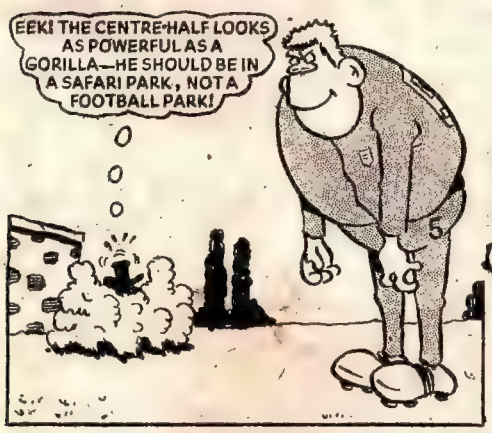
. . . I'M GOING ON A SPYING MISSION TO GREEN STREET!
CHAMPS
TEAM HUT

ONE TOP SECRET SINGLE TO GREEN STREET! DON'T TELL ANYONE YOU SAW ME!

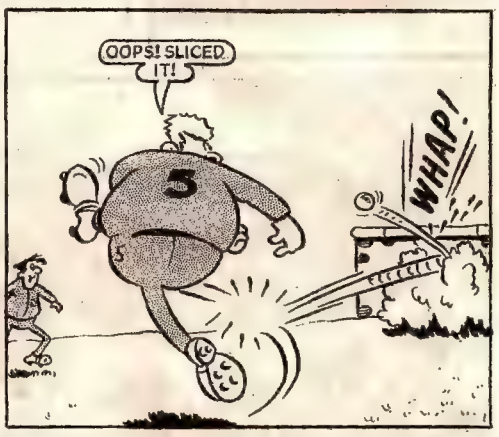
MUSTN'T BE SPOTTED!
GREEN ST. PARK

AH! THIS MUST BE GREEN STREET ROVERS TRAINING—I'LL TAKE SOME NOTES ON THEM.

GASP! THEIR SMALLEST PLAYER'S TWICE MY SIZE!


EEK! THE CENTRE-HALF LOOKS AS POWERFUL AS A GORILLA—HE SHOULD BE IN A SAFARI PARK, NOT A FOOTBALL PARK!

WONDER IF HE'S GOT A GOOD SHOT?

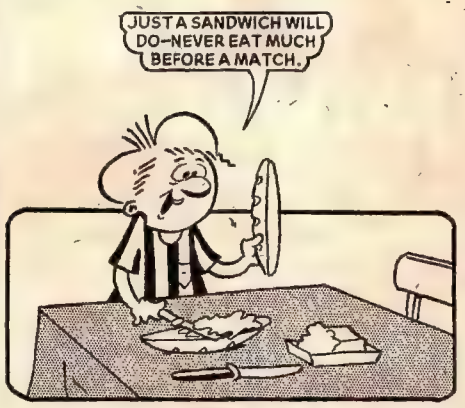

OOPS! SLICED IT!
WHAP!

PHEW! WHAT A ROCKET—I'D BETTER BUY A 'GET-WELL' CARD FOR OUR 'KEEPER!
BNO 28.8.82

MUDCASTER UTD. F.C.
YEEK! WE'LL GET HAMMERED 99-0 ON SATURDAY!
B.B.'S BEEN WATCHING MUDCASTER UNITED!
WE CAN TRAIN IN THE STADIUM NOW THAT OUR GROUNDSMAN'S MOWED THE PITCH.
MANAGER AND COACH
EDITOR'S VOICE
DON'T TELL B.B., BUT THAT'S THE REAL GREEN STREET ROVERS!

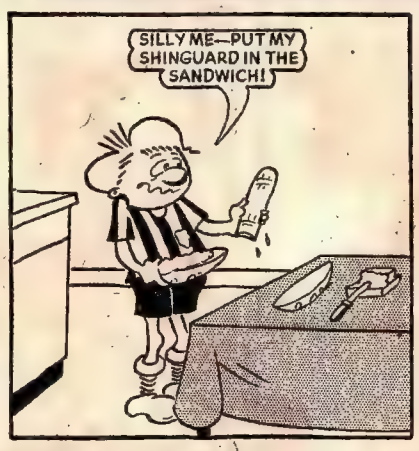
# BALL BOY

I'LL HAVE A SNACK BEFORE KICK-OFF TIME.


JUST A SANDWICH WILL DO—NEVER EAT MUCH BEFORE A MATCH.

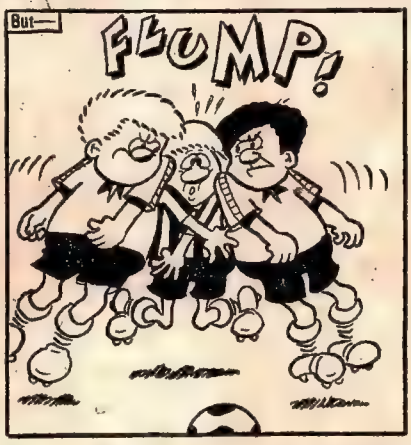
NEED SOMETHING TO PUT ON THE SANDWICH. WONDER IF WE'LL WIN TODAY?

GROOK! WHAT'VE I DONE?
CRUNK!

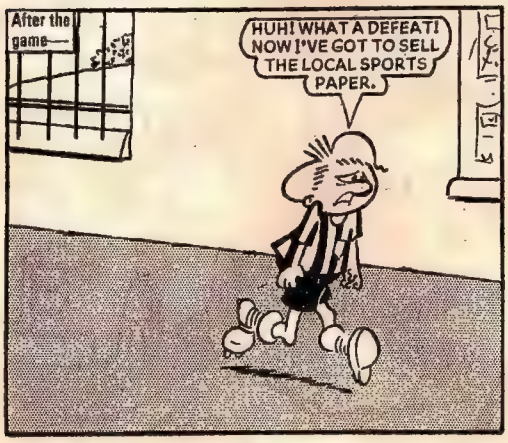

SILLY ME—PUT MY SHINGUARD IN THE SANDWICH!

Later—
NOW FOR A SOLO RUN!

I'LL GET THROUGH THAT GAP!


But—
FLUMP!

FOUL, REF! A SANDWICH!


After the game—
HUH! WHAT A DEFEAT! NOW I'VE GOT TO SELL THE LOCAL SPORTS PAPER.

NORMALLY I LIKE THIS JOB . . .

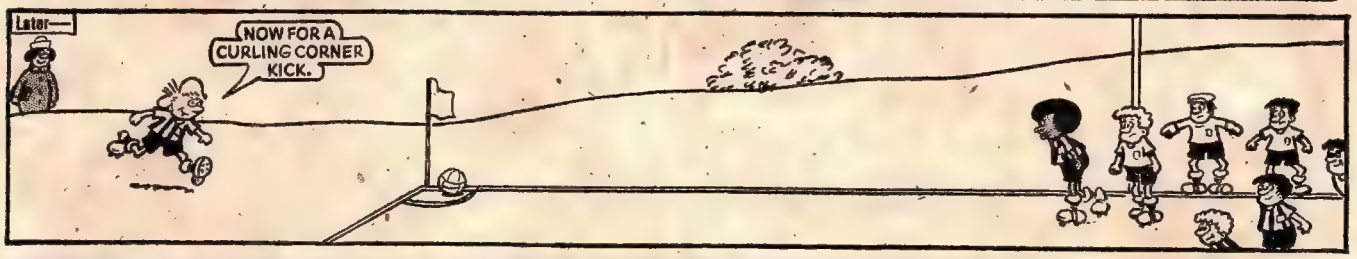
. . . BUT NOT WHEN THE HEADLINES SAY THIS! PESKY SANDWICH BOARD!
SPORTS NEWS
B.B.'S TEAM LOSE 13-1!
BNO 4.9.82

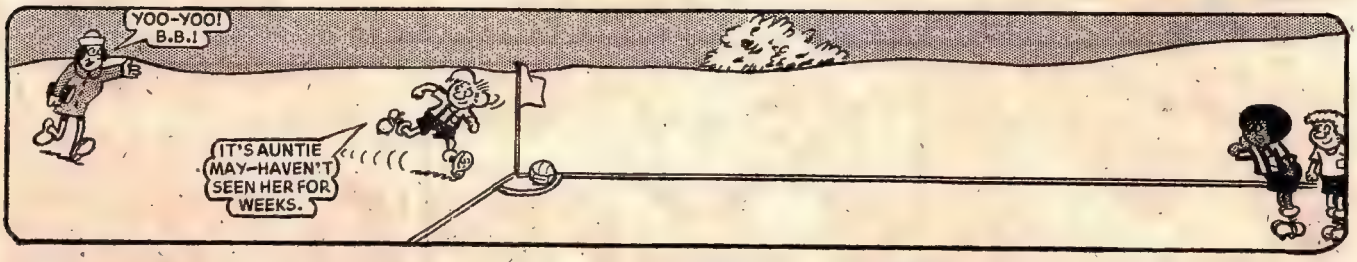
# BALL BOY

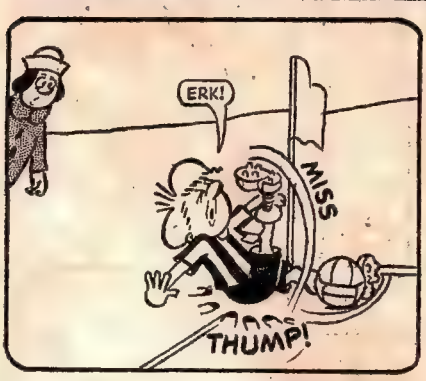
SUPER HEADER COMING UP!

But—
SUPER FOR US!
WHOOPS! MISSED!
HAW! HAW!

TRY KEEPING YOUR EYE ON THE BALL, B.B.!
OK.


Later—
NOW FOR A CURLING CORNER KICK.

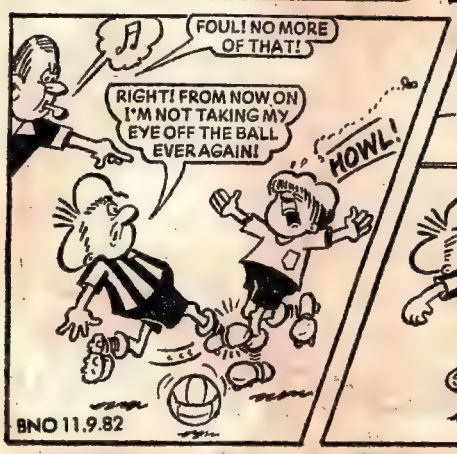

YOO-YOO! B.B.!
IT'S AUNTIE MAY—HAVEN'T SEEN HER FOR WEEKS.

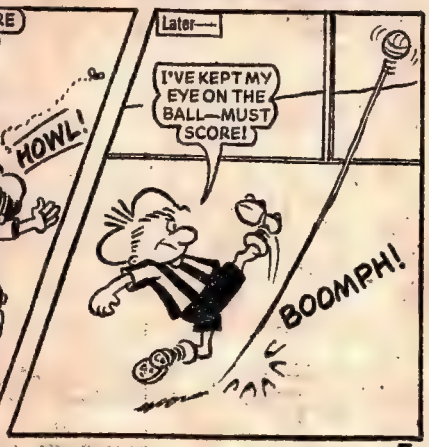

ERK!
MISS
THUMP!

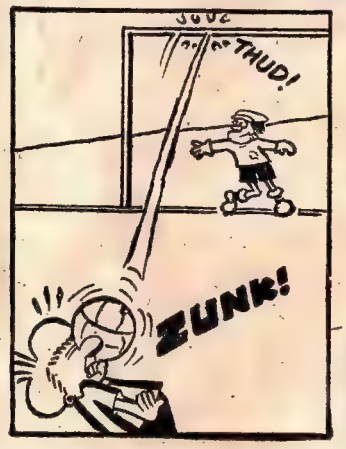
YOU TOOK YOUR EYE OFF THE BALL AGAIN!

Soon—
I'LL TACKLE HIM, BENJY!
WELL, KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL!

THERE'S A WASP ABOUT TO . . .

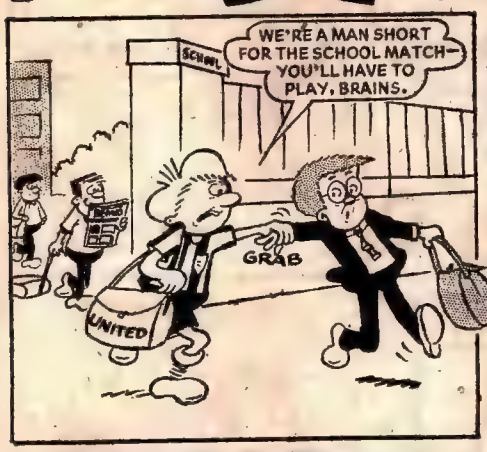

FOUL! NO MORE OF THAT!
RIGHT! FROM NOW ON I'M NOT TAKING MY EYE OFF THE BALL EVER AGAIN!
HOWL!
BNO 11.9.82


Later—
I'VE KEPT MY EYE ON THE BALL—MUST SCORE!
BOOMPH!


THUD!
ZUNK!

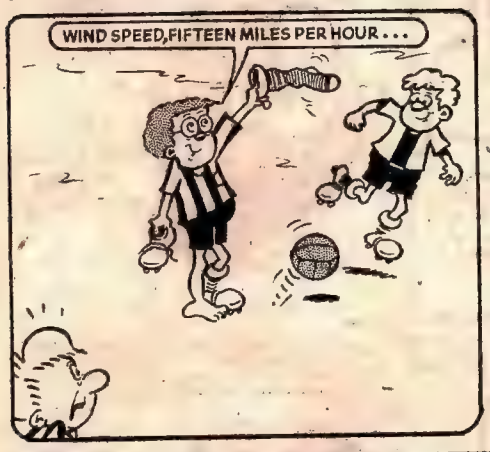
HUH! AFTER ALL THAT ABOUT EYES ON THE BALL—I GOT THE BALL ON MY EYE!

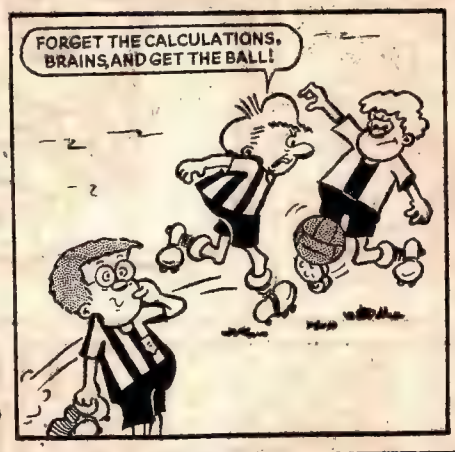
# BALL BOY

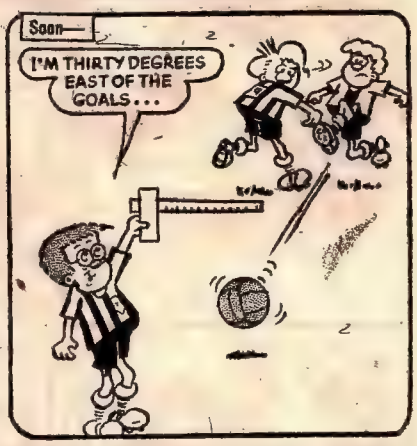

SCHOOL
WE'RE A MAN SHORT FOR THE SCHOOL MATCH— YOU'LL HAVE TO PLAY, BRAINS.
GRAB
UNITED

BUT, BALL BOY, I'VE SOME HARD SUMS TO DO FOR HOMEWORK!
PLAYING FIELD
YAH! DON'T BOTHER ABOUT THAT!

The game begins—
YOUR BALL, BRAINS!
PASS


WIND SPEED, FIFTEEN MILES PER HOUR . . .

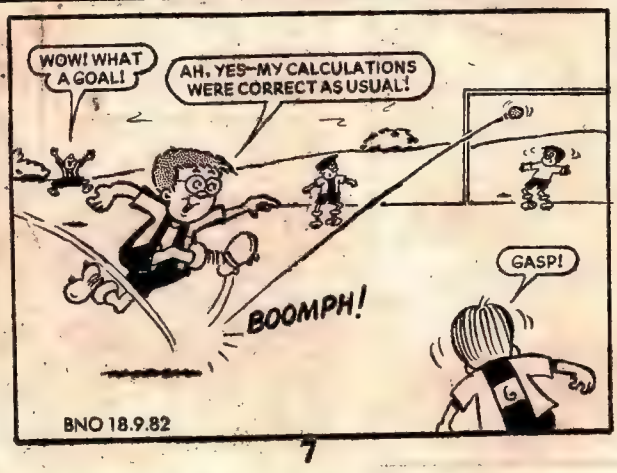

FORGET THE CALCULATIONS, BRAINS, AND GET THE BALL!

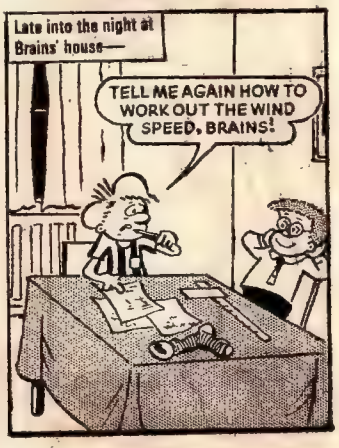

Soon—
I'M THIRTY DEGREES EAST OF THE GOALS . . .

PUFF! DONT BOTHER WITH THAT NONSENSE!
MMM!

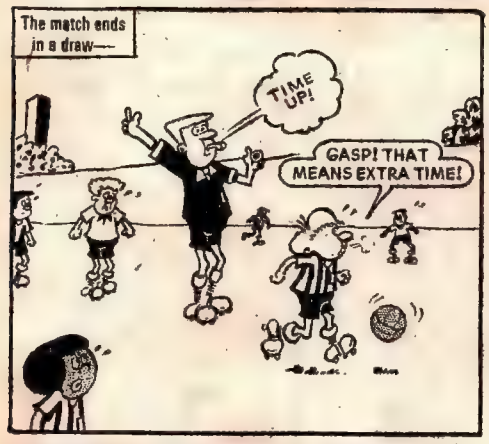
PHEW! MADE IT!
DESPERATE CLEARANCE
THUD!

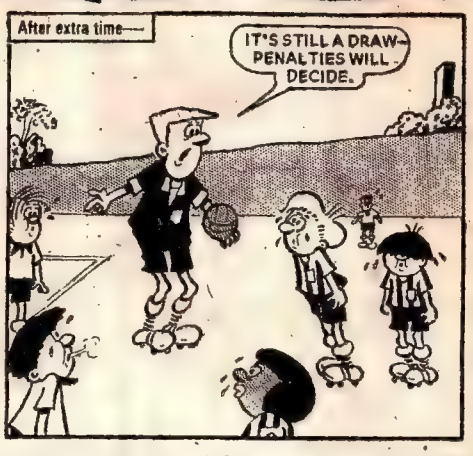
AHA! THE BALL IS APPROACHING AT A VELOCITY OF ABOUT FIFTY MILES AN HOUR . . .

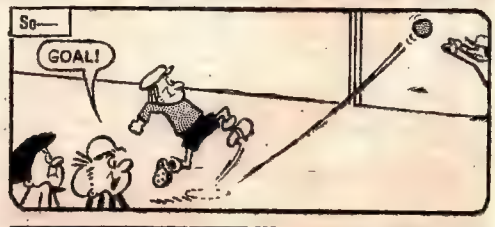

WOW! WHAT A GOAL!
AH, YES—MY CALCULATIONS WERE CORRECT AS USUAL!
GASP!
BOOMPH!
BNO 18.9.82

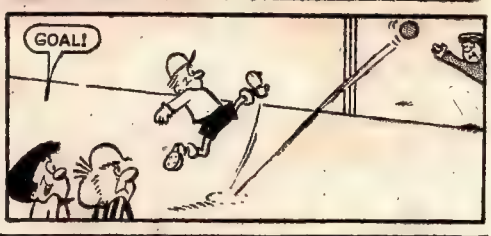

Late into the night at Brains' house—
TELL ME AGAIN HOW TO WORK OUT THE WIND SPEED, BRAINS!

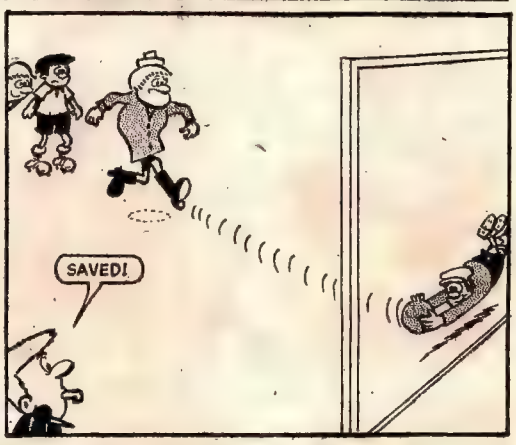
# BALL BOY

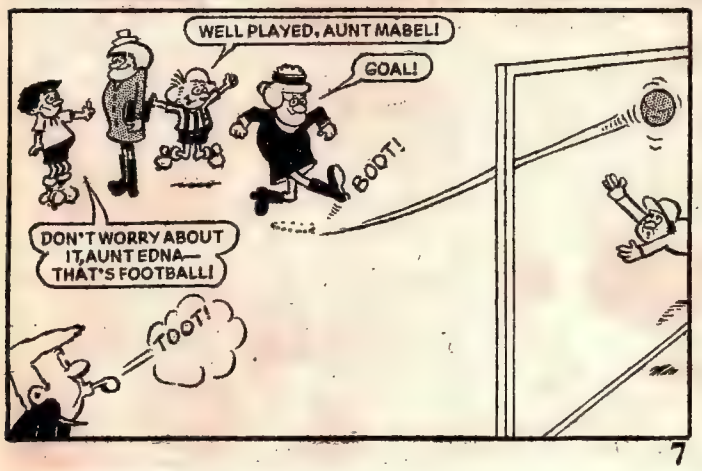


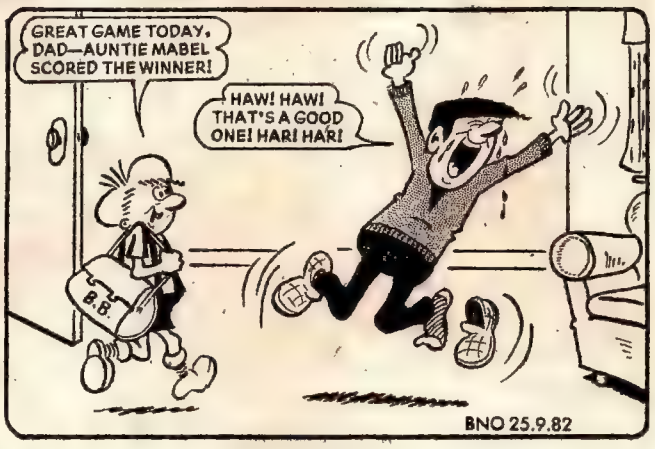







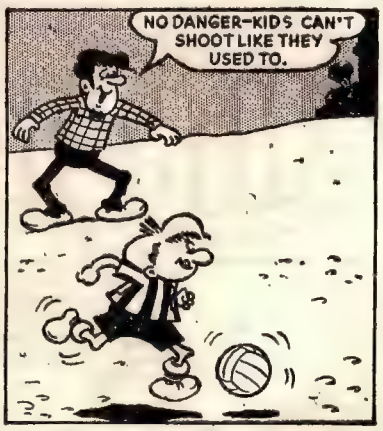




BNO 25.9.82

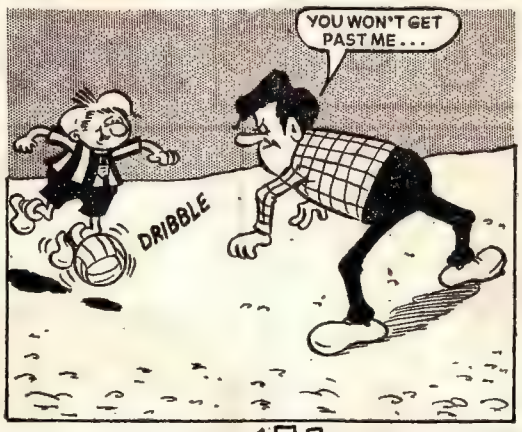
# BALL BOY

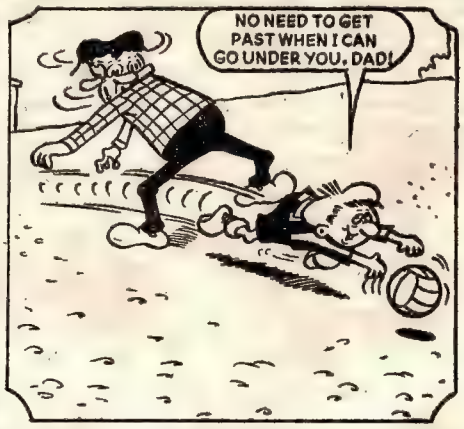
I STILL SAY FOOTBALLERS AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE.
DAD AS A LAD

COME ON AND HAVE A GAME, DAD.
OO—ER—UM...

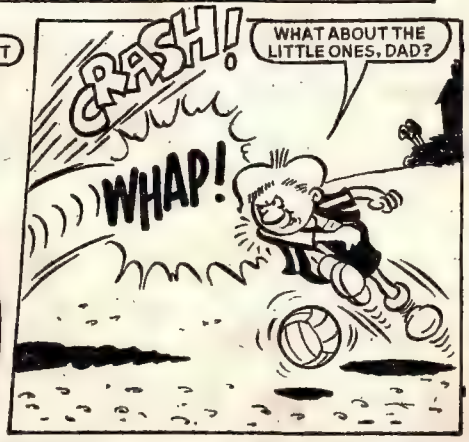

NO DANGER—KIDS CAN'T SHOOT LIKE THEY USED TO.

OO; OO-OOP!
FUMP!
IS THAT SO, DAD?
THUMP!


YOU WON'T GET PAST ME...
DRIBBLE

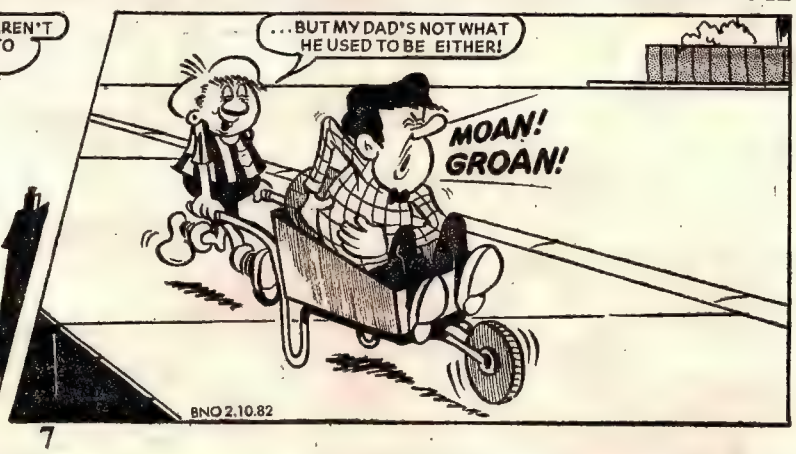

NO NEED TO GET PAST WHEN I CAN GO UNDER YOU, DAD!

EVEN THE BIGGEST CENTRE-HALVES COULDN'T STOP ME!
DRIBBLE


CRASH!
WHAT ABOUT THE LITTLE ONES, DAD?
WHAP!

GROAN! MOAN! I'M SORE ALL OVER—GET ME TRANSPORT HOME! OOO!

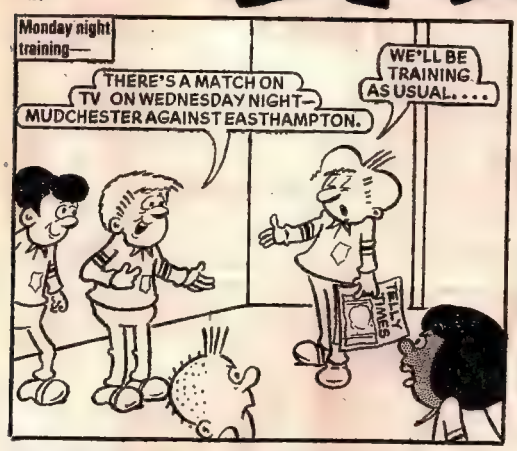
MAYBE FOOTBALLERS AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE, READERS...


...BUT MY DAD'S NOT WHAT HE USED TO BE EITHER!
MOAN! GROAN!
BNO 2.10.82

# BALL BOY

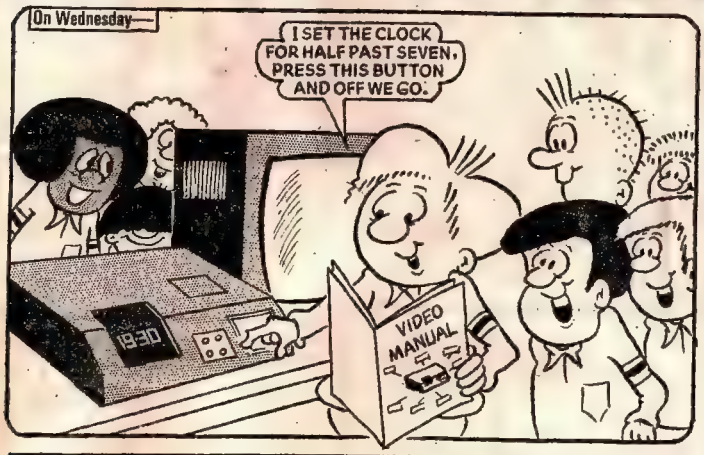
HEY! HAVE YOU HEARD? THERE'S A SCOUT WATCHING US TODAY!
SO WHAT? . . .
. . . THERE'S ALWAYS A SCOUT HERE. HE COMES EVERY WEEK.
NOT HIM! HE'S JUST HERE TO HELP THE REF. ACROSS THE ROAD AFTER THE MATCH!
CHEEK! I'M NOT THAT OLD—YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT, MY LAD!
I MEAN A TALENT SCOUT LOOKING FOR SKILFUL PLAYERS.
Shortly—
WONDER WHICH ONE'S THE SCOUT?
MAYBE IT'S THAT CHAP WITH THE TARTAN CAP.
LOB
PEEP!
WAHEY! A GREAT GOAL BY ANY STANDARD!
TAP
YOU WERE OFFSIDE AGES AGO! DIDN'T YOU HEAR MY WHISTLE?
Soon—
ON THE OTHER HAND, MAYBE IT'S THE BALD LAD WITH THE BIG NOSE.
QUICK, TACKLE HIM!
W-WHERE DID HE GO?
EASY!
GREAT SKILL, B.B.!
NOW TO PLAY THE OLD "ONE—TWO" TO GET ROUND THIS CHAP!
BUT WHO'S GOING TO PASS THE BALL BACK TO YOU, B.B.?
But—
THUMP!
OOF!
THE REF IS! HOPE THE SCOUT'S WATCHING!
OO-ER! DON'T THINK THAT WAS SUCH A GOOD IDEA!
After the match—
GREAT GAME, THAT. WISH I KNEW WHO THE SCOUT WAS THOUGH.
I'M THE SCOUT!
WHO SAID THAT?
I DID! I'M THE TALENT SCOUT FOR THE "FAIR PLAY TO REFEREES" COMPETITION—AND YOUR TEAM HASN'T A CHANCE, THANKS TO YOU!
SNARL!
WHOOPS!
Later—
YOU'RE GETTING BASHED WHEN WE FIND YOU, B.B.!
SNORT! HE MUST BE HERE SOMEWHERE!
STEADY DOES IT, OLD LADY.
PHEW! HOPE MY TEAM DOESN'T SEE THROUGH THIS DISGUISE!
BNO 9.10.82

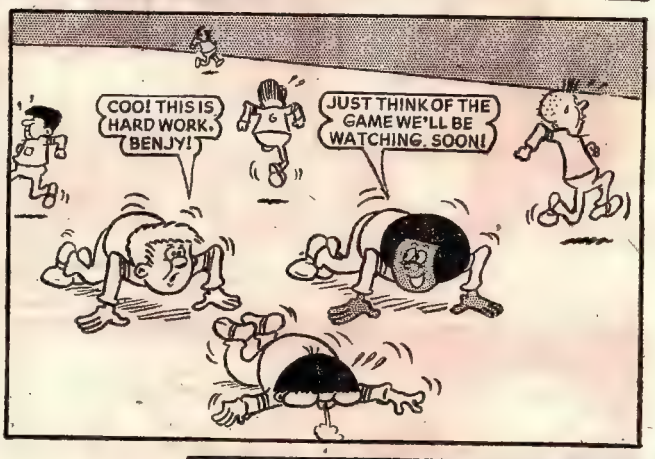
# BALL BOY

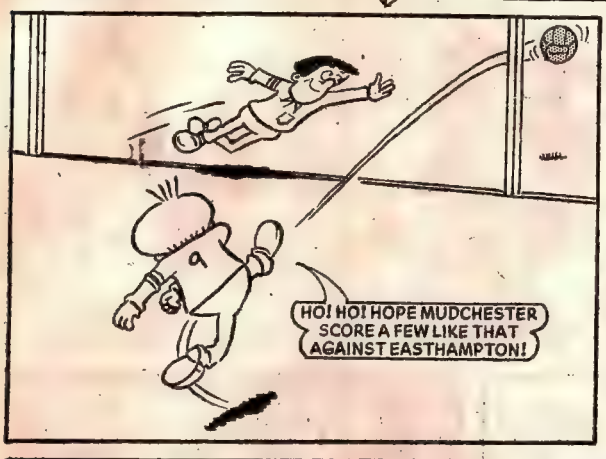

Monday night training—
THERE'S A MATCH ON TV ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT— MUDCHESTER AGAINST EASTHAMPTON.
WE'LL BE TRAINING AS USUAL....
TELLY TIMES

YOU MUST BE JOKING!
SPOILSPORT!
BOO!
...LET ME FINISH, LADS, PLEASE!

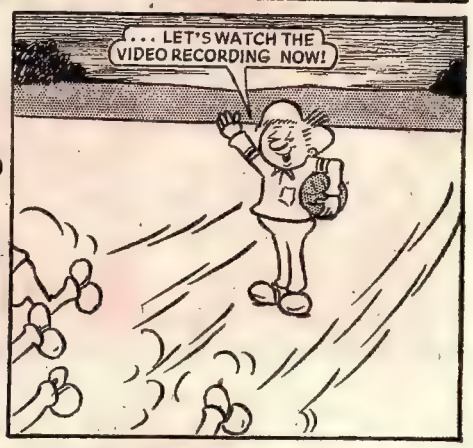
I'VE HIRED A VIDEO, SO WE'LL TAPE THE GAME AND WATCH IT AFTER TRAINING.
GREAT!
TV


On Wednesday—
I SET THE CLOCK FOR HALF PAST SEVEN, PRESS THIS BUTTON AND OFF WE GO.
VIDEO MANUAL

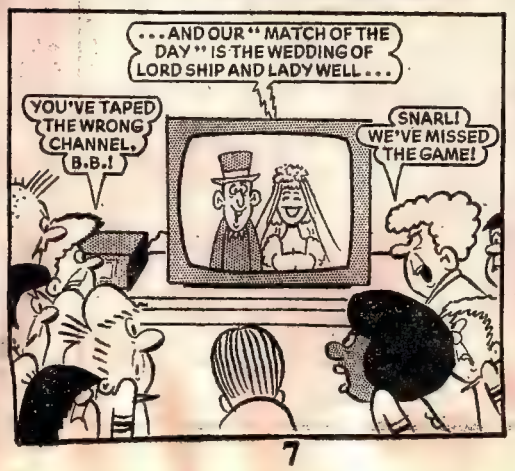

COO! THIS IS HARD WORK, BENJY!
JUST THINK OF THE GAME WE'LL BE WATCHING, SOON!


HO! HO! HOPE MUDCHESTER SCORE A FEW LIKE THAT AGAINST EASTHAMPTON!

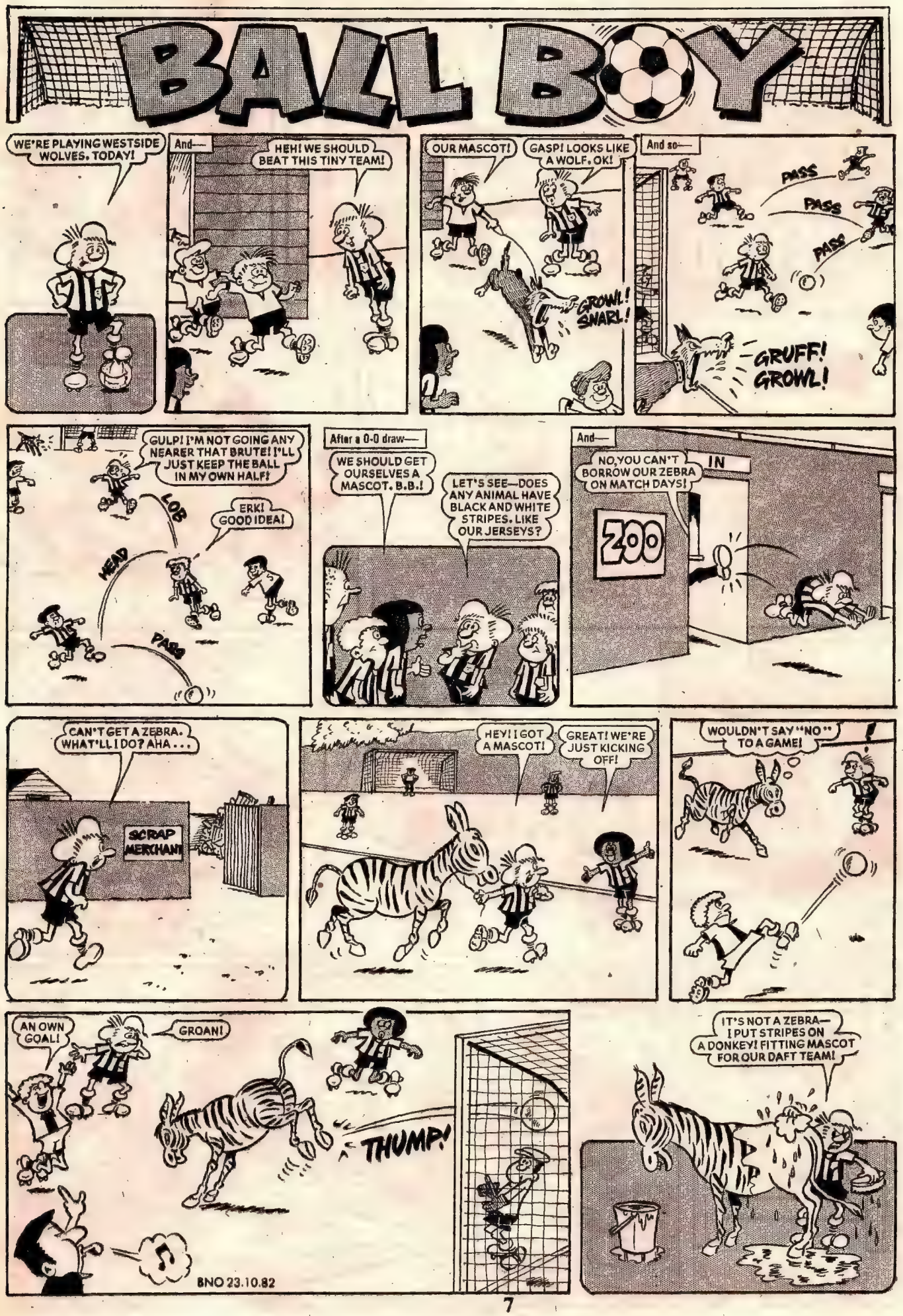
MUST BE NEARLY TIME TO FINISH. NOW, B.B.!
YES—YOU'VE DONE WELL, LADS...


...LET'S WATCH THE VIDEO RECORDING NOW!

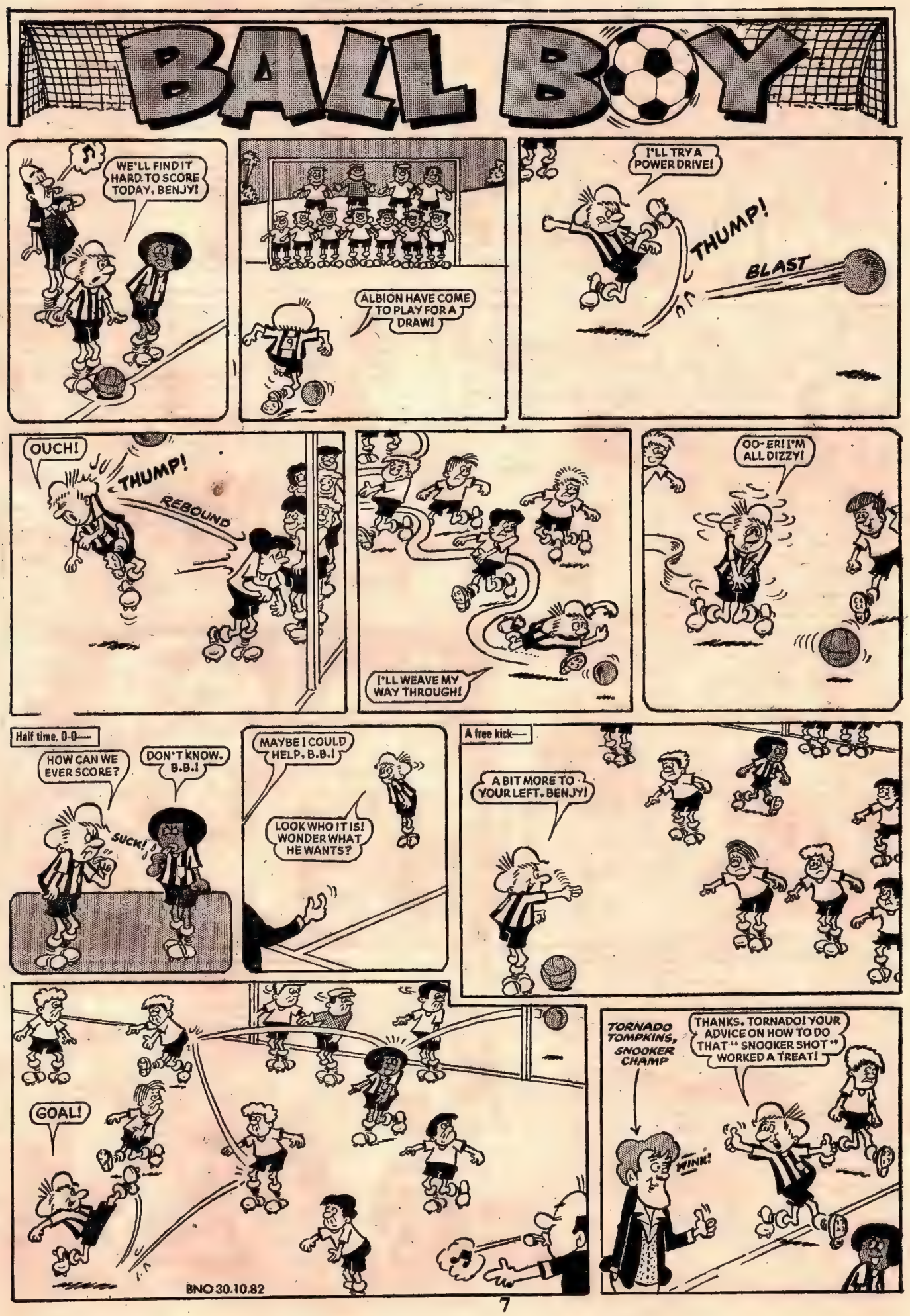
SWITCH ON, B.B.!
RIGHT—HERE GOES!
WE CAN HAVE ACTION REPLAYS ANY TIME WE WANT!
CLICK!


...AND OUR "MATCH OF THE DAY" IS THE WEDDING OF LORD SHIP AND LADY WELL...
YOU'VE TAPED THE WRONG CHANNEL, B.B.!
SNARL! WE'VE MISSED THE GAME!

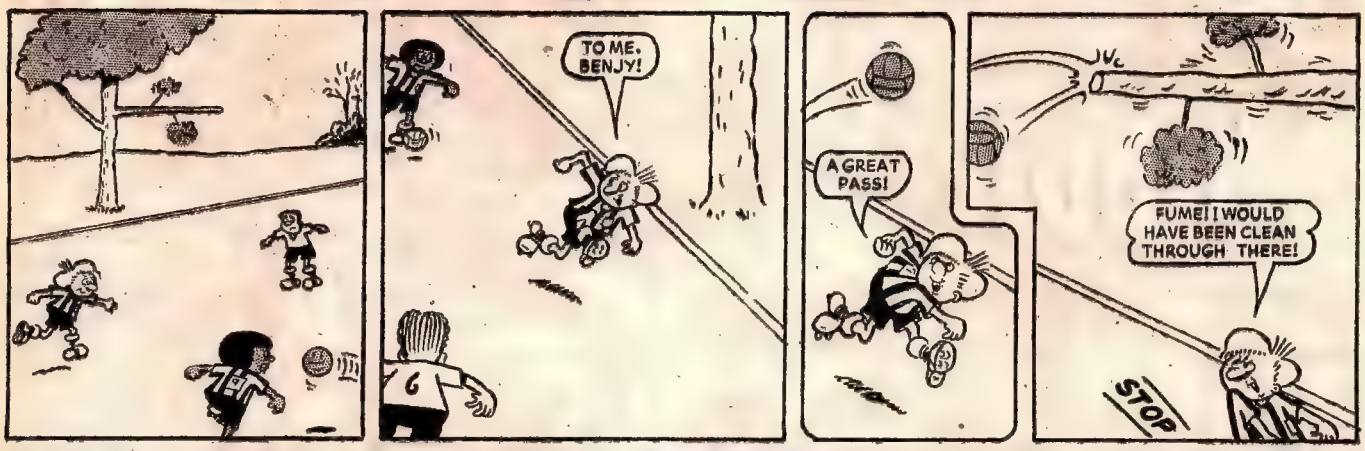
THIS ISN'T AN ACTION REPLAY, READERS—IT'S THE REAL THING!
BNO 16.10.82

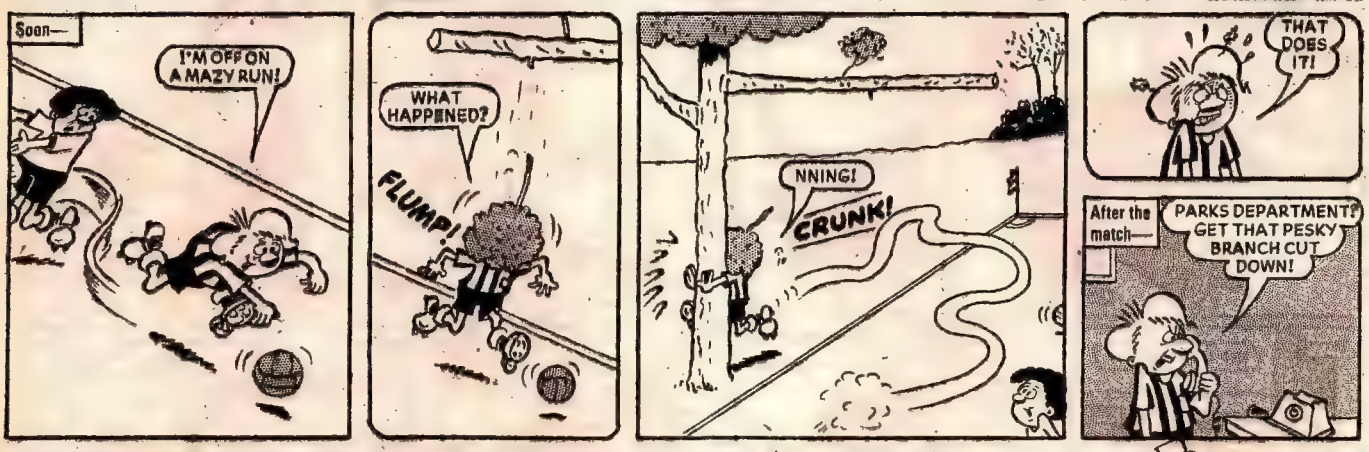

BALL BOY
WE'RE PLAYING WESTSIDE WOLVES. TODAY!
And—
HEH! WE SHOULD BEAT THIS TINY TEAM!
OUR MASCOT!
GASP! LOOKS LIKE A WOLF. OK!
GROWL! SNARL!
And so—
PASS
PASS
PASS
GRUFF! GROWL!
GULP! I'M NOT GOING ANY NEARER THAT BRUTE! I'LL JUST KEEP THE BALL IN MY OWN HALF!
LOB
ERK! GOOD IDEA!
HEAD
PASS
After a 0-0 draw—
WE SHOULD GET OURSELVES A MASCOT. B.B.!
LET'S SEE—DOES ANY ANIMAL HAVE BLACK AND WHITE STRIPES. LIKE OUR JERSEYS?
And—
NO, YOU CAN'T BORROW OUR ZEBRA ON MATCH DAYS!
IN
ZOO
CAN'T GET A ZEBRA. WHAT'LL I DO? AHA . . .
SCRAP MERCHANT
HEY! I GOT A MASCOT!
GREAT! WE'RE JUST KICKING OFF!
WOULDN'T SAY "NO" TO A GAME!
AN OWN GOAL!
GROAN!
THUMP!
BNO 23.10.82
IT'S NOT A ZEBRA— I PUT STRIPES ON A DONKEY! FITTING MASCOT FOR OUR DAFT TEAM!

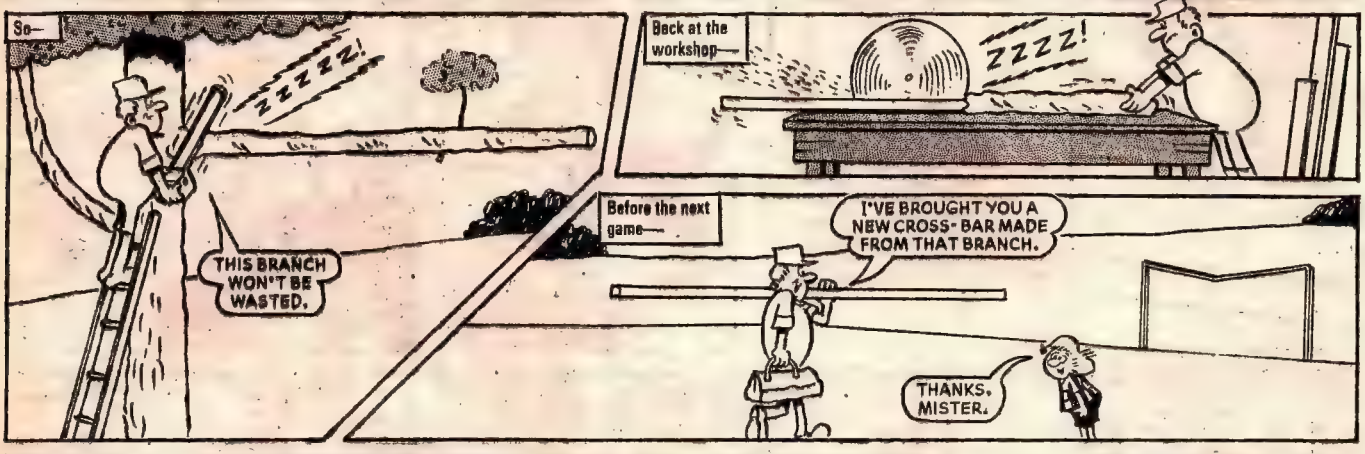
# BALL BOY

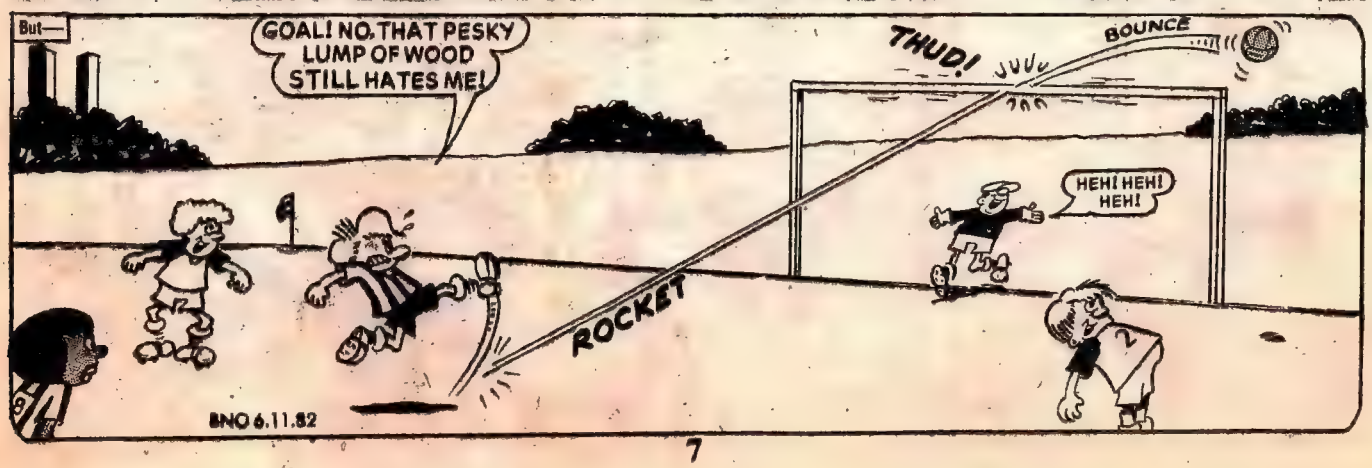

WE'LL FIND IT HARD TO SCORE TODAY, BENJY!
ALBION HAVE COME TO PLAY FOR A DRAW!
I'LL TRY A POWER DRIVE!
THUMP!
BLAST
OUCH!
THUMP!
REBOUND
I'LL WEAVE MY WAY THROUGH!
OO-ER! I'M ALL DIZZY!
Half time. 0-0—
HOW CAN WE EVER SCORE?
DON'T KNOW, B.B.!
SUCK!
MAYBE I COULD HELP, B.B.!
LOOK WHO IT IS! WONDER WHAT HE WANTS?
A free kick—
A BIT MORE TO YOUR LEFT, BENJY!
GOAL!
BNO 30.10.82
TORNADO TOMPKINS, SNOOKER CHAMP
THANKS, TORNADO! YOUR ADVICE ON HOW TO DO THAT "SNOOKER SHOT" WORKED A TREAT!
WINK!

# BALL BOY

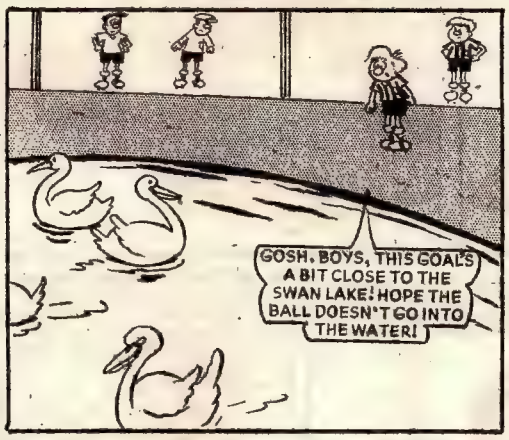

TO ME, BENJY!
A GREAT PASS!
FUME! I WOULD HAVE BEEN CLEAN THROUGH THERE!
STOP


Soon—
I'M OFF ON A MAZY RUN!
WHAT HAPPENED?
FLUMP!
NNING!
CRUNK!
THAT DOES IT!
After the match—
PARKS DEPARTMENT? GET THAT PESKY BRANCH CUT DOWN!


So—
ZZZZZ!
THIS BRANCH WON'T BE WASTED.
Back at the workshop—
ZZZZ!
Before the next game—
I'VE BROUGHT YOU A NEW CROSS-BAR MADE FROM THAT BRANCH.
THANKS, MISTER.

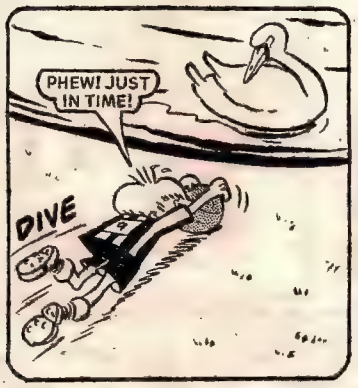

But—
GOAL! NO, THAT PESKY LUMP OF WOOD STILL HATES ME!
THUD!
BOUNCE
HEH! HEH! HEH!
ROCKET
BNO 6.11.82

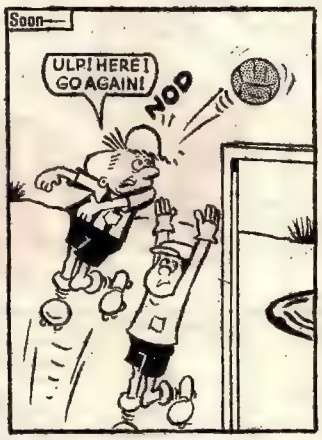
# BALL BOY


GOSH, BOYS, THIS GOAL'S A BIT CLOSE TO THE SWAN LAKE! HOPE THE BALL DOESN'T GO INTO THE WATER!

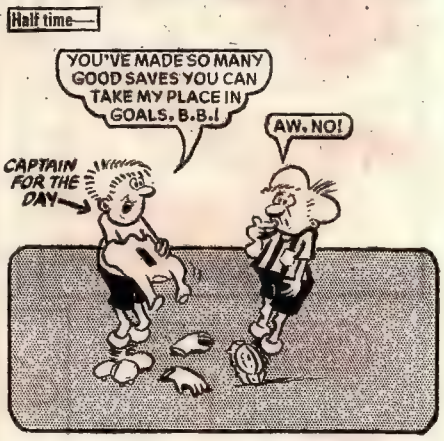
The game begins—
OH, NO!
BOOT!

MUST STOP IT! DON'T WANT TO GO WADING!

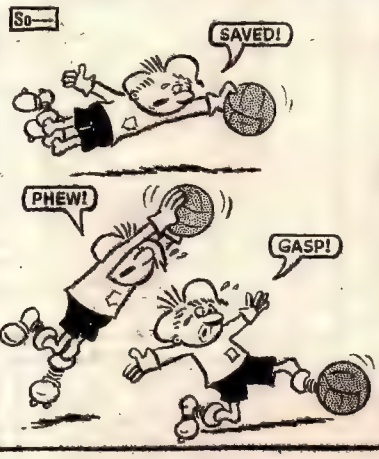

PHEW! JUST IN TIME!
DIVE


Soon—
ULP! HERE I GO AGAIN!
NOD

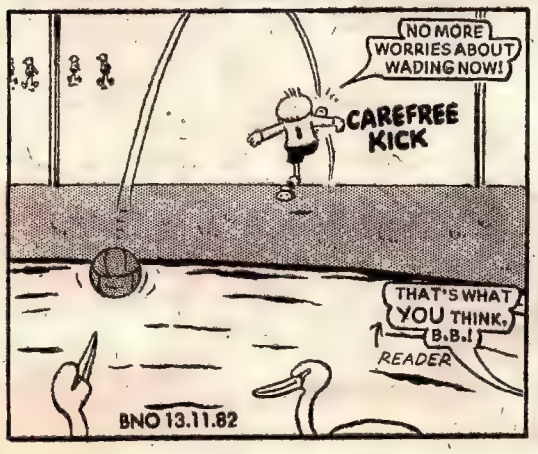
GOT YOU, BALL!
LEAP

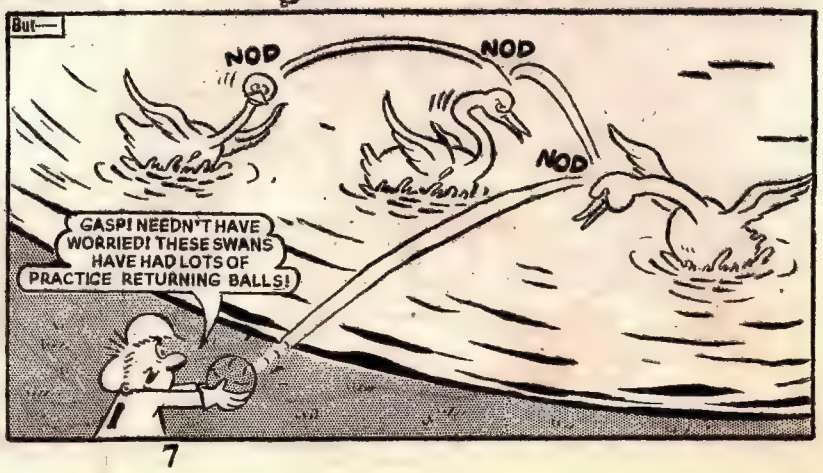

Half time—
YOU'VE MADE SO MANY GOOD SAVES YOU CAN TAKE MY PLACE IN GOALS, B.B.!
AW, NO!
CAPTAIN FOR THE DAY

MUST KEEP THE BALL AWAY FROM THAT PESKY POND!


So—
SAVED!
PHEW!
GASP!

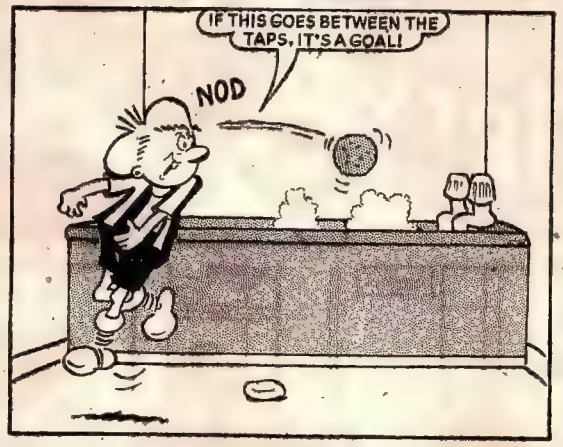
FULL TIME AT LAST, AND THE BALL HASN'T LANDED IN THE LAKE!
WHISTLE!


NO MORE WORRIES ABOUT WADING NOW!
CAREFREE KICK
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, B.B.!
READER
BNO 13.11.82

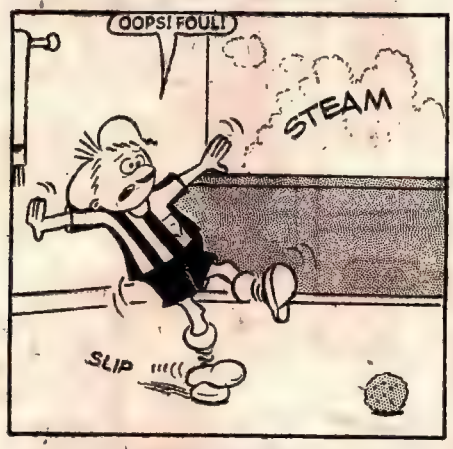

But—
NOD
NOD
NOD
GASP! NEEDN'T HAVE WORRIED! THESE SWANS HAVE HAD LOTS OF PRACTICE RETURNING BALLS!

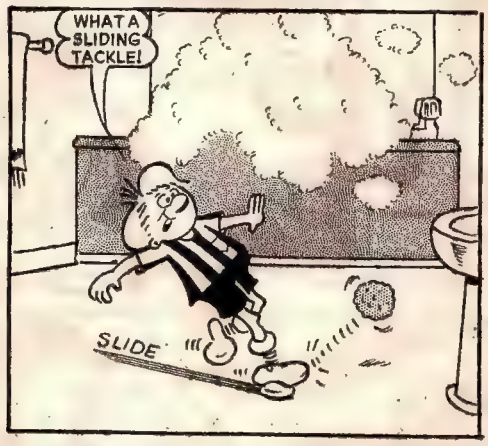
# BALL BOY

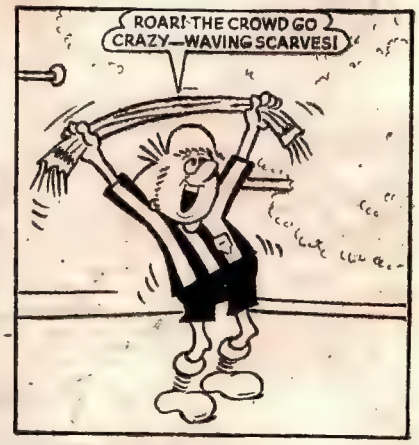
HO-HUM! BATH NIGHT.

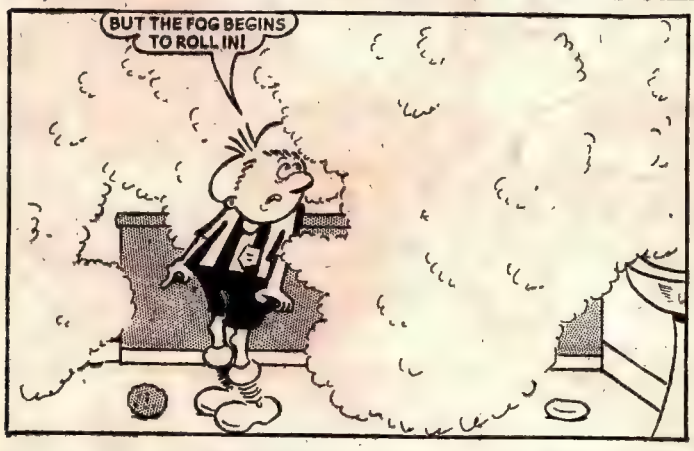

IF THIS GOES BETWEEN THE TAPS, IT'S A GOAL!
NOD

BUT THERE'S A DESPERATE CLEARANCE!

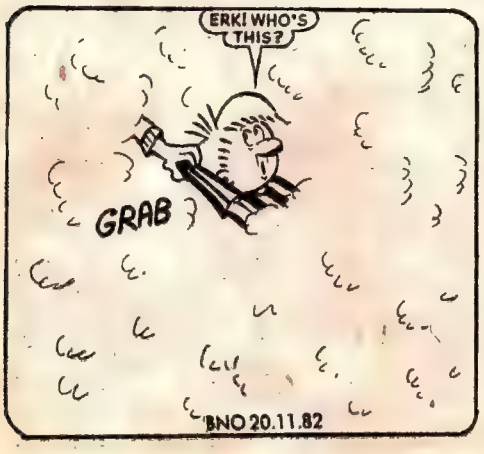

OOPS! FOUL!
STEAM
SLIP

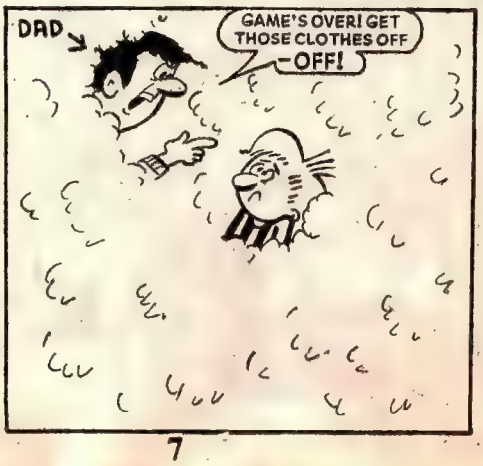

WHAT A SLIDING TACKLE!
SLIDE

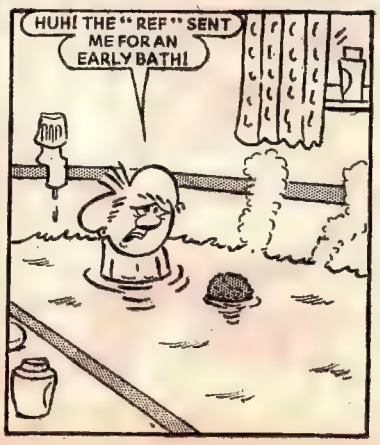

ROAR! THE CROWD GO CRAZY—WAVING SCARVES!


BUT THE FOG BEGINS TO ROLL IN!

REAL CHANCE OF THE GAME BEING ABANDONED NOW!


ERK! WHO'S THIS?
GRAB
BNO 20.11.82

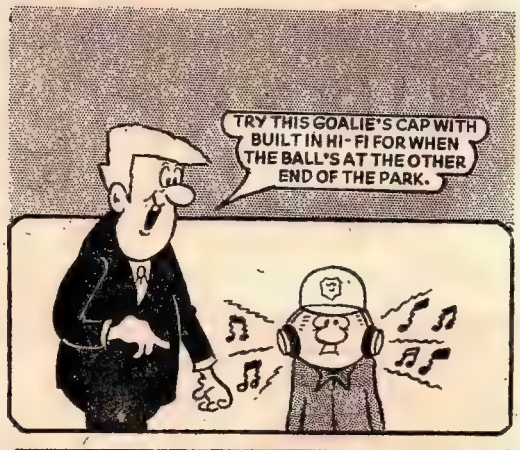

DAD
GAME'S OVER! GET THOSE CLOTHES OFF —OFF!

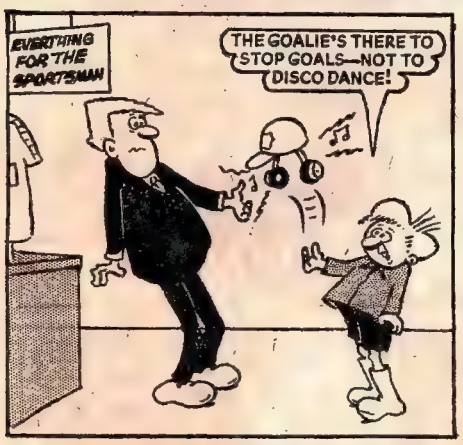

HUH! THE "REF" SENT ME FOR AN EARLY BATH!

# BALL BOY

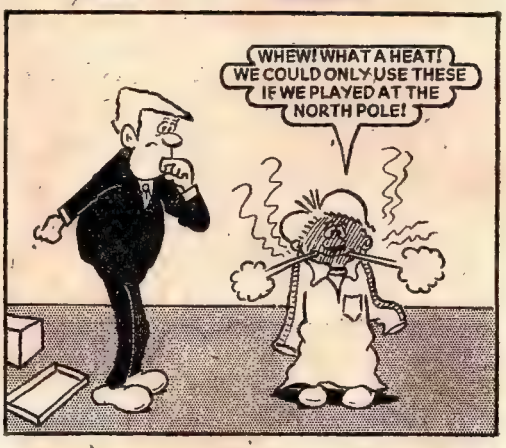
SPORTS SHOP
MUST GET KITTED OUT.

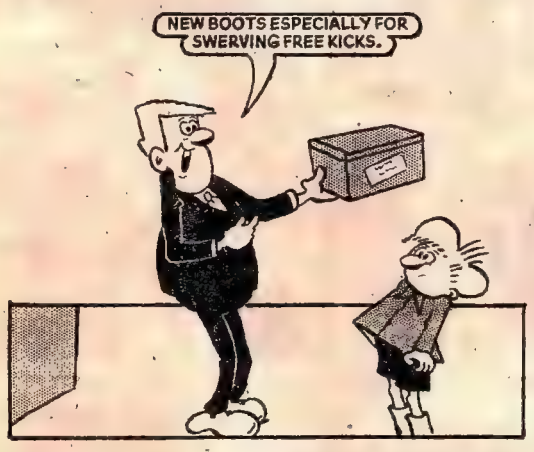
WE'VE GOT THE VERY LATEST IN FOOTBALL GEAR, B.B.!
EVERYTHING FOR THE SPORTSMAN


TRY THIS GOALIE'S CAP WITH BUILT IN HI-FI FOR WHEN THE BALL'S AT THE OTHER END OF THE PARK.

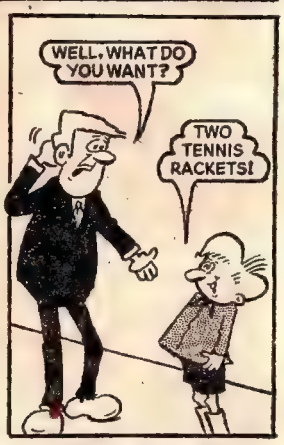

EVERYTHING FOR THE SPORTSMAN
THE GOALIE'S THERE TO STOP GOALS—NOT TO DISCO DANCE!

TRY OUR NEW THERMAL FOOTBALL GEAR.


WHEW! WHAT A HEAT! WE COULD ONLY USE THESE IF WE PLAYED AT THE NORTH POLE!


NEW BOOTS ESPECIALLY FOR SWERVING FREE KICKS.

HUH! YOU'D NEED FEET LIKE BANANAS TO WEAR THEM!

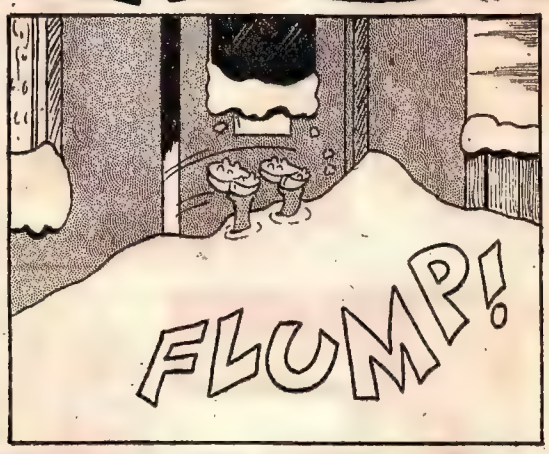

WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
TWO TENNIS RACKETS!

HAS BALL BOY GIVEN UP FOOTBALL?

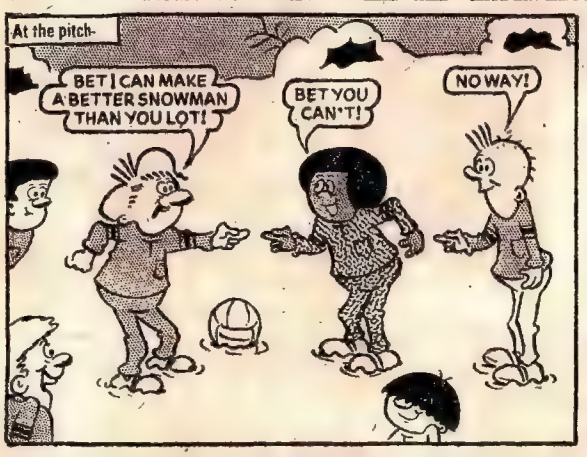
OF COURSE NOT! CLEVER, EH?
I'M STUCK!
OOF!
BNO 4.12.82

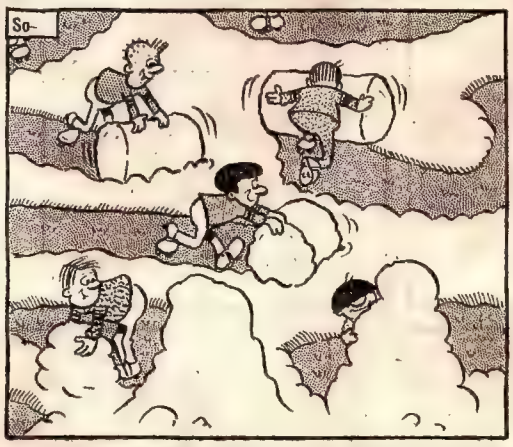
# BALL BOY

I'M OFF FOR TRAINING.

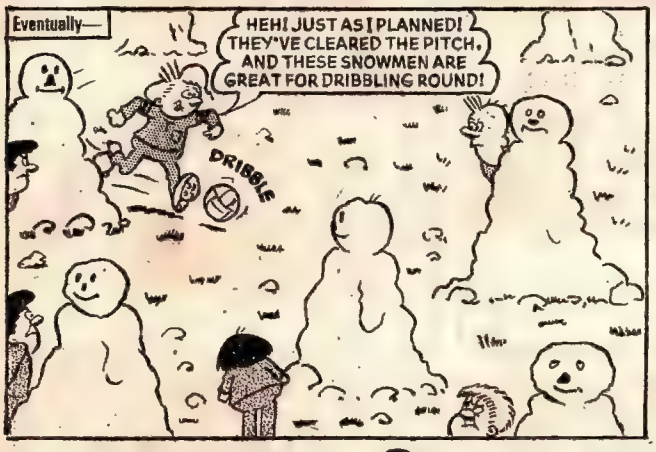

FLUMP!

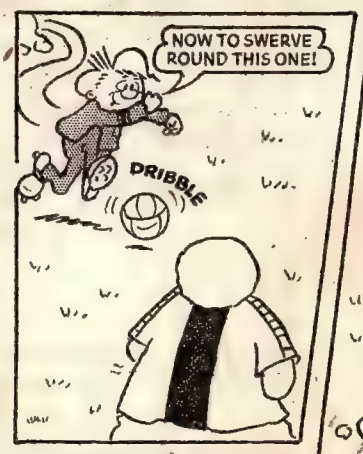
BAH! OUR PITCH WILL BE COVERED IN DEEP SNOW!


At the pitch-
BET I CAN MAKE A BETTER SNOWMAN THAN YOU LOT!
BET YOU CAN'T!
NO WAY!


So-

THAT'S MY ONE FINISHED!


Eventually—
HEH! JUST AS I PLANNED! THEY'VE CLEARED THE PITCH, AND THESE SNOWMEN ARE GREAT FOR DRIBBLING ROUND!
DRIBBLE


NOW TO SWERVE ROUND THIS ONE!
DRIBBLE

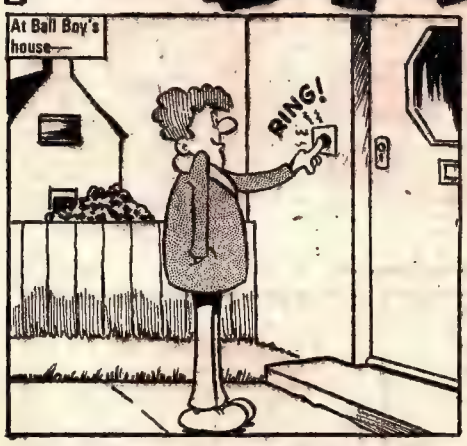
But—
EH? WHAT?
SWOOSH!

I KNEW WHAT YOU'D PLANNED, SO I BUILT MY SNOWMAN ON A SLEDGE! YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN YOUR FACE, B.B.!
HELPLESS
BNO 11.12.82

Next day—
THE SNOWMAN'S IN YOUR PLACE, BENJY! HE'S A MUCH BETTER TACKLER THAN YOU!
SATURDAY'S TEAM
1. JENNINGS
2. MILLS
3. NAREY
4. ROBSON
5. HANSEN
6. KEEGAN
7. TICH
8. SNOWMAN
9. BALL BOY
10. DIMMY
11. RUSH
SUB— BENJY
JAW DROPPING

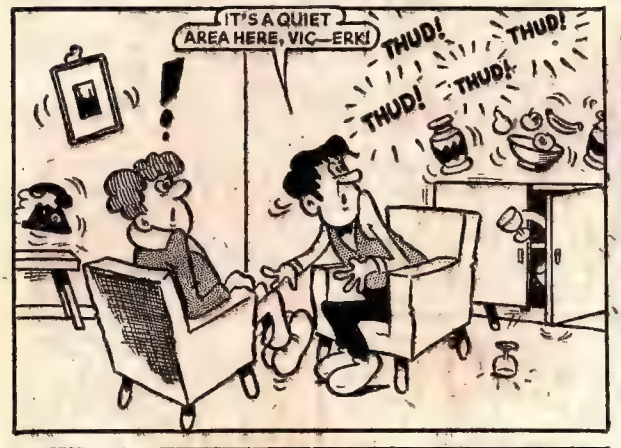
GLUM
JUST KIDDING HIM, READERS! HEH! HEH!
WINK

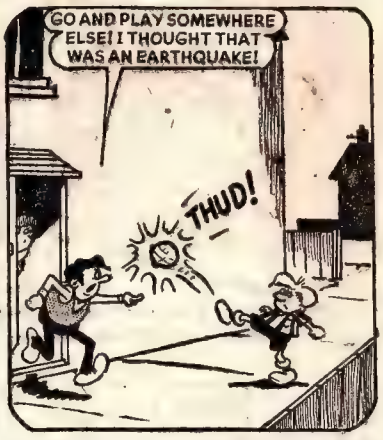
# BALL BOY


At Ball Boy's house—
RING!

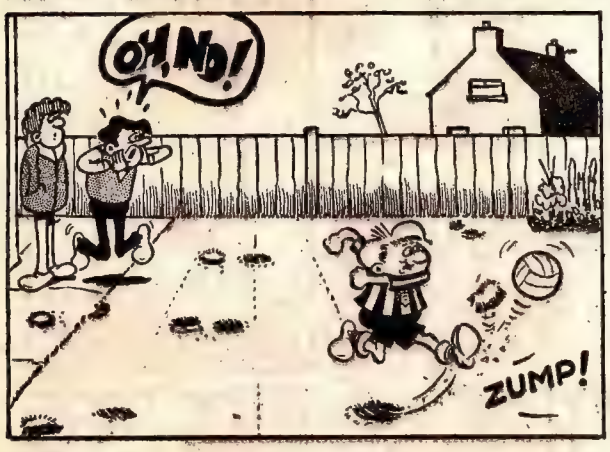
BEAT YOU EASILY, MISTER!
I—I'VE COME TO SEE YOUR FATHER.

I CAN ALMOST MAKE THIS BALL TALK!
AH! MY OLD PAL, VIC—HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR YEARS!


IT'S A QUIET AREA HERE, VIC—ERK!
THUD!
THUD!
THUD!
THUD!


GO AND PLAY SOMEWHERE ELSE! I THOUGHT THAT WAS AN EARTHQUAKE!
THUD!

COME AND LOOK AT MY GARDEN, VIC—I'M VERY PROUD OF IT.


OH, NO!
ZUMP!

WANT TO SEE MY BALL CONTROL, MISTER? I'M SO GOOD I CAN ALMOST MAKE THE BALL TALK!
PEST!

WATCH THIS!

But—
STOP! DON'T KICK ME! IT HURTS!

MY PAL, VIC, IS A VENTRILOQUIST—HE'S ABLE TO THROW HIS VOICE! HE REALLY MADE THE BALL TALK!
HELP! A TALKING BALL!
BNO 18.12.82

# BALL BOY

Christmas Day—

LONG AGO, ENEMY SOLDIERS CAME OUT OF THEIR TRENCHES TO PLAY FOOTBALL TOGETHER ON CHRISTMAS DAY..

COO! IT MUST'VE BEEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

PRESS

REMOTE-CONTROLLED SOLDIERS B.B. GOT IN A PRESENT

WHAT A SHOT!

PRESS

WHOOPS! LUCKY HE HAD HIS HELMET ON!

BOK!

THE OTHER SOLDIER'S A BIT ANGRY...

PRESS

..HE FIRES A CANNONBALL SHOT!

PRESS

POP!

CRASH!

OOPS!

Enter Mum—

AUNT MABEL SENT ME THAT VASE FOR CHRISTMAS. YOU FOOTBALLING PEST!

PEACE, MUM! REMEMBER IT'S CHRISTMAS!

Enter Dad—

NOT TO WORRY, MUM— I'LL BUY YOU ANOTHER VASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PHEW!

HUMPH! OK— TIME FOR DINNER.

WELL DONE, SON! I DIDN'T LIKE THAT VASE ANYWAY!

MERRY CHRISTMAS, READERS!

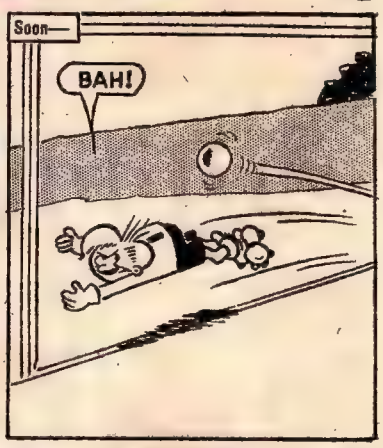
PEA

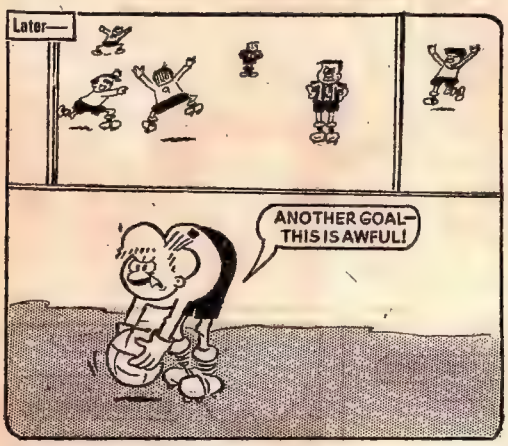
BNO 25.12.82

# BALL BOY

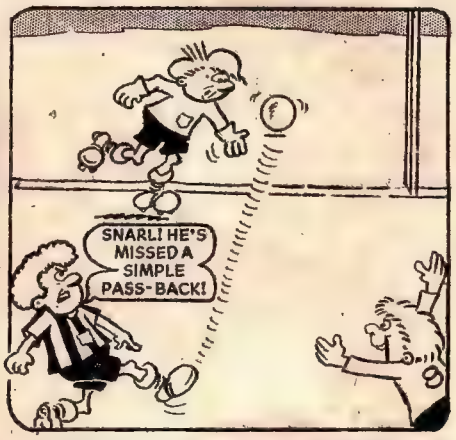
OUR REGULAR GOALIE'S ILL, SO I'M IN GOALS—IT'S NOT MY FAVOURITE POSITION.

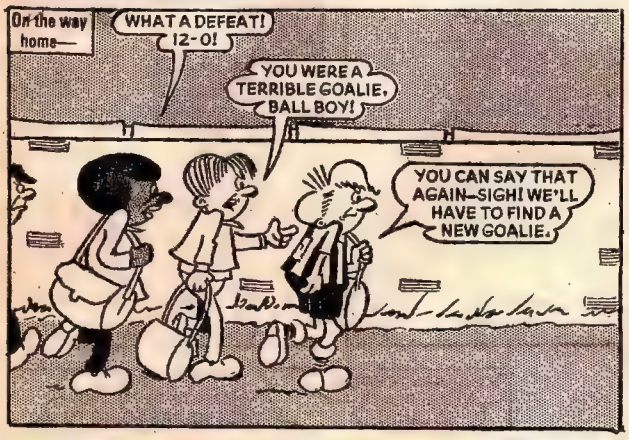
HUM! OR MY BEST POSITION!


Soon—
BAH!


Later—
ANOTHER GOAL—THIS IS AWFUL!

ERK! THEIR FOURTH GOAL!

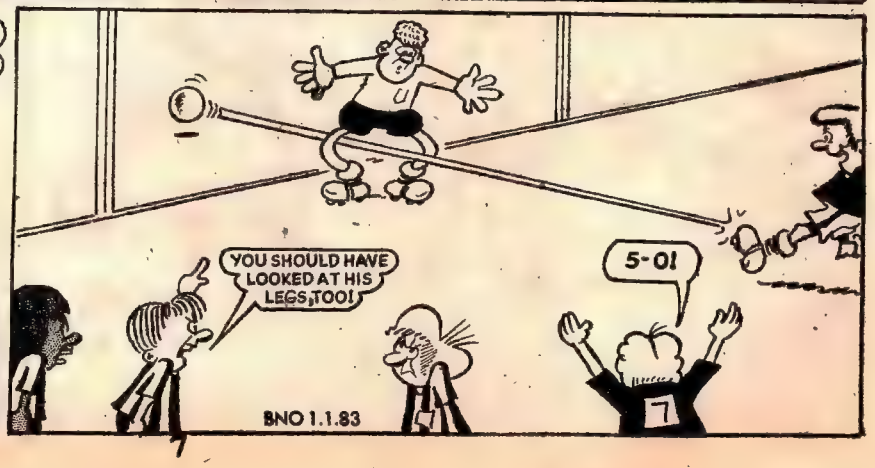

SNARL! HE'S MISSED A SIMPLE PASS-BACK!


On the way home—
WHAT A DEFEAT! 12-0!
YOU WERE A TERRIBLE GOALIE, BALL BOY!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN—SIGH! WE'LL HAVE TO FIND A NEW GOALIE.

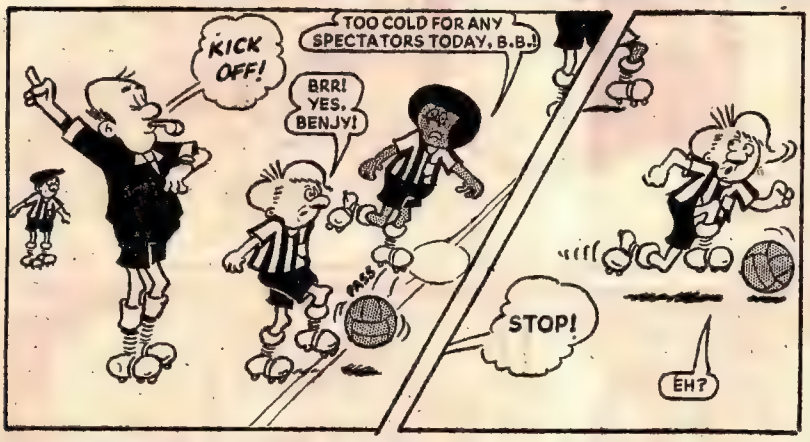
I'LL PLAY IN GOALS FOR YOU.
HMM! ARE YOU ANY GOOD?

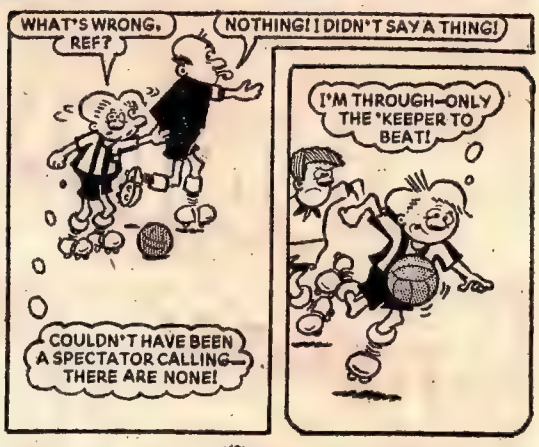
WELL, LOOK AT THE SIZE OF MY HANDS!
WOW! WHAT AN ADVANTAGE! YOU'RE OUR NEW KEEPER!

At the next match—
YOU CLOWN! THIS NEW KEEPER'S EVEN WORSE THAN YOU!
WELL, I THOUGHT HE'D BE GOOD BECAUSE OF HIS HANDS.

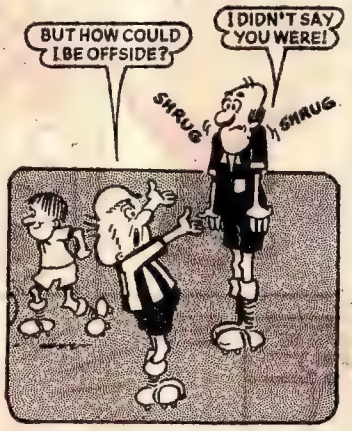

YOU SHOULD HAVE LOOKED AT HIS LEGS, TOO!
5-0!
BNO 1.1.83

# BALL BOY


KICK OFF!
TOO COLD FOR ANY SPECTATORS TODAY, B.B.!
BRR! YES, BENJY!
PASS
STOP!
EH?


WHAT'S WRONG, REF?
NOTHING! I DIDN'T SAY A THING!
COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A SPECTATOR CALLING— THERE ARE NONE!
I'M THROUGH—ONLY THE 'KEEPER TO BEAT!

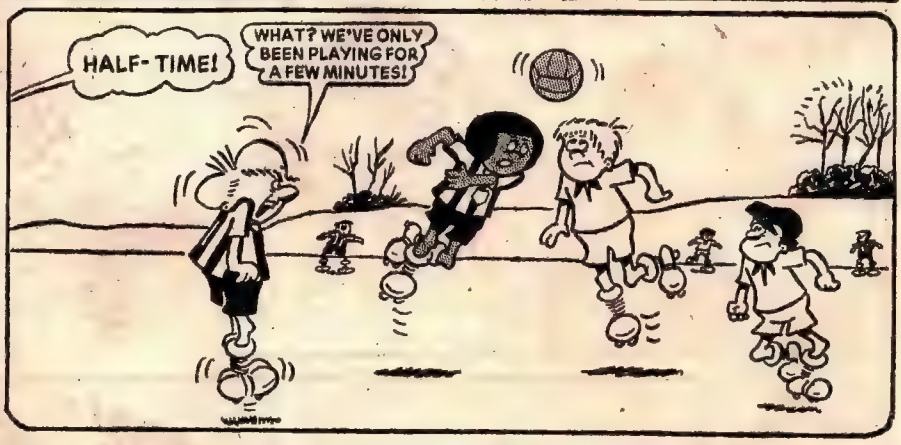
OFFSIDE!
WHAT?
BRAKE

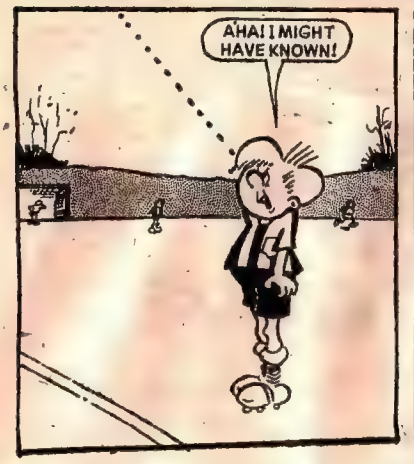

BUT HOW COULD I BE OFFSIDE?
I DIDN'T SAY YOU WERE!
SHRUG
SHRUG

I MUST HAVE BEEN HEARING THINGS.

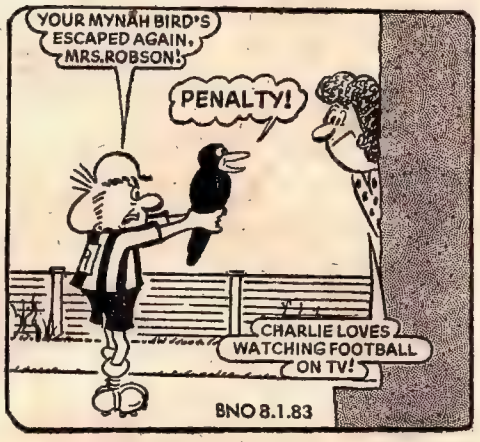
FOUL!
EH?
GOOD TACKLE

IT WAS A FAIR TACKLE, REFEREE!
I DIDN'T SAY A WORD!

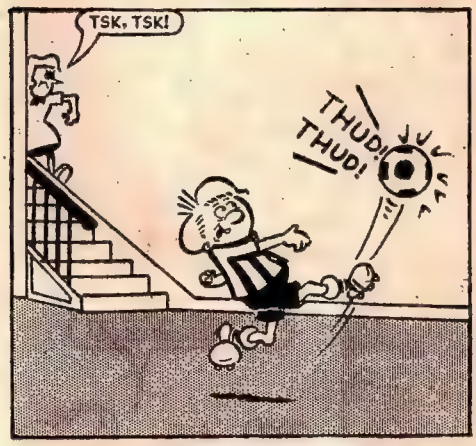

HALF-TIME!
WHAT? WE'VE ONLY BEEN PLAYING FOR A FEW MINUTES!

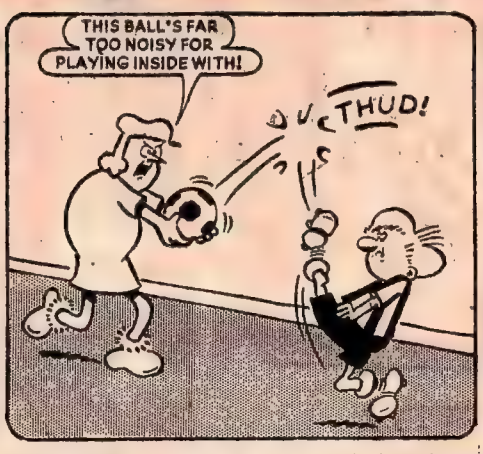

AHA! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN!

COME ON, CHARLIE!

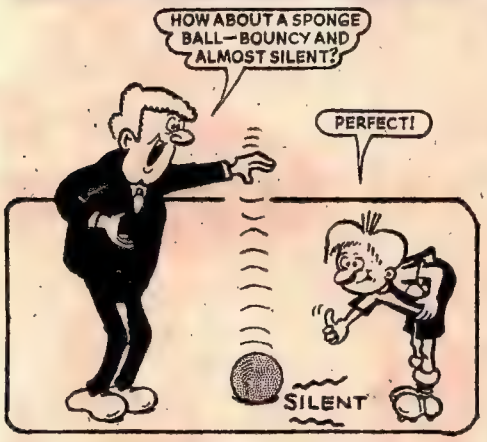

YOUR MYNAH BIRD'S ESCAPED AGAIN, MRS. ROBSON!
PENALTY!
CHARLIE LOVES WATCHING FOOTBALL ON TV!
BNO 8.1.83

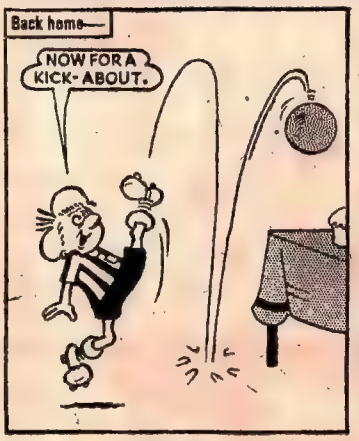
# BALL BOY


TSK, TSK!
THUD! THUD!

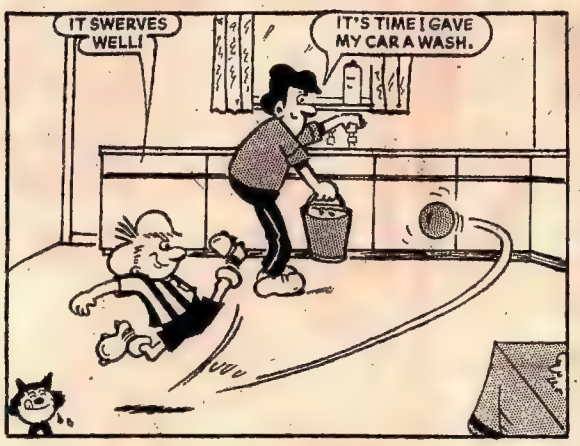

THIS BALL'S FAR TOO NOISY FOR PLAYING INSIDE WITH!
THUD!

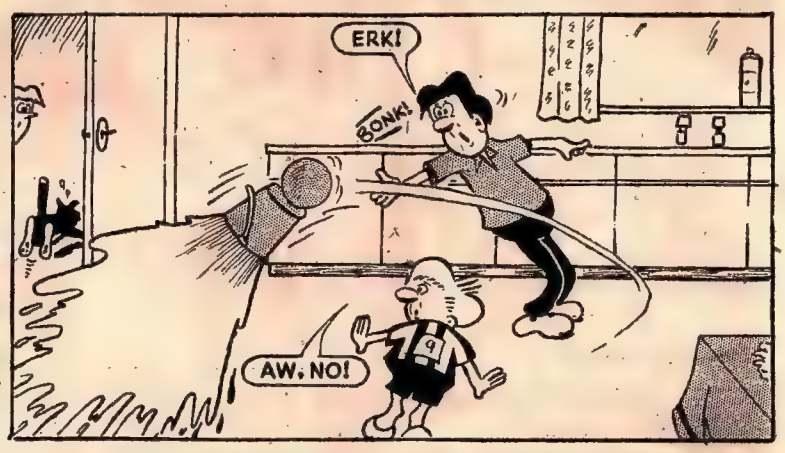
I'LL SEE IF I CAN BUY A QUIETER FOOTBALL.

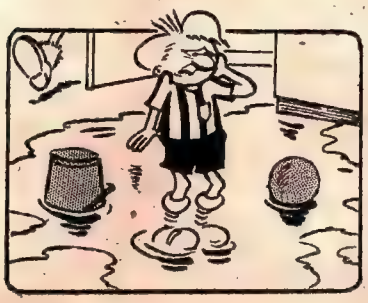

HOW ABOUT A SPONGE BALL—BOUNCY AND ALMOST SILENT?
PERFECT!
SILENT

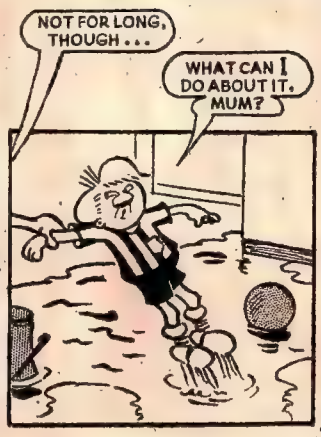

Back home—
NOW FOR A KICK-ABOUT.

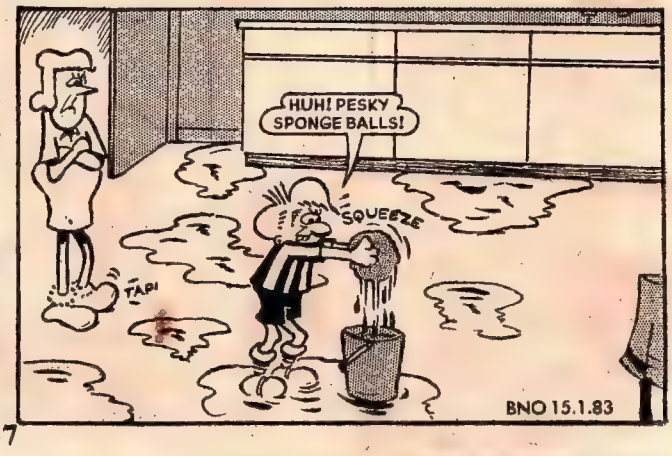
SPURT!
RIGHT IN MUM'S SPONGE CAKE—MUST BE WHY IT'S CALLED A SPONGE BALL!


IT SWERVES WELL!
IT'S TIME I GAVE MY CAR A WASH.

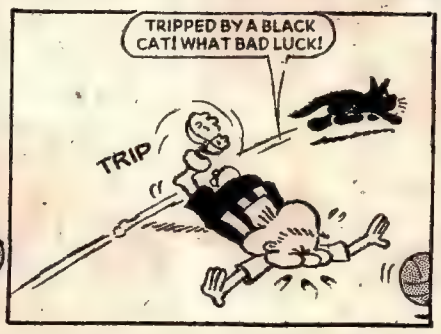

ERK!
BONK!
AW, NO!

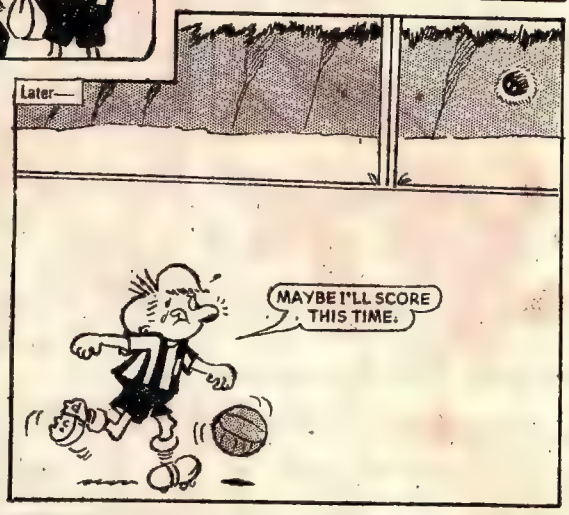

AW! THE PITCH IS WATERLOGGED!

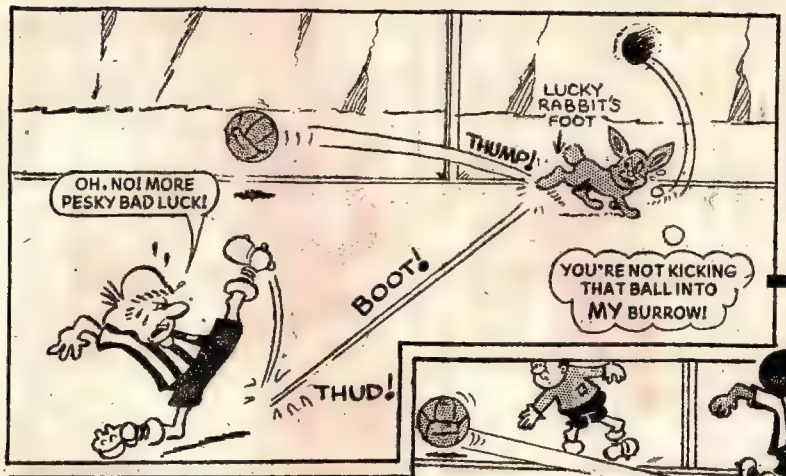

NOT FOR LONG, THOUGH...
WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT, MUM?

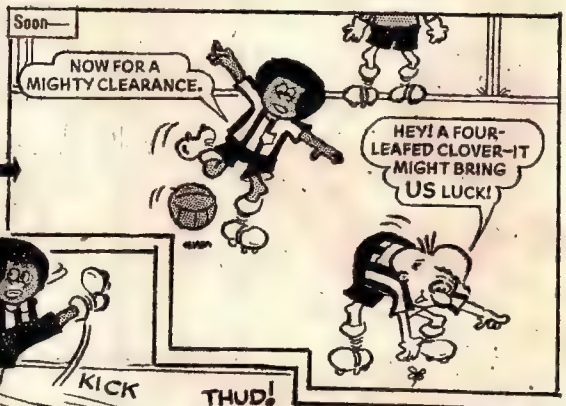

HUH! PESKY SPONGE BALLS!
SQUEEZE
TAP!
BNO 15.1.83

# BALL BOY



BNO 22.1.83

# BALL BOY

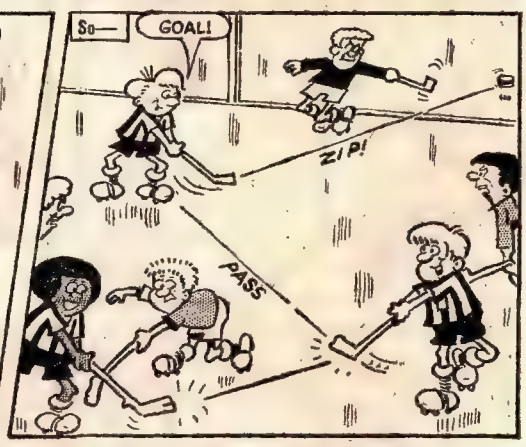
ERK! NO FOOTBALL TODAY B.B.—THE PITCH IS ALL ICED OVER!
SLIP

HUH! WHAT CAN WE DO INSTEAD?
SWIPE

GOOD GOAL!
THAT'S IT—WE CAN PLAY AT ICE HOCKEY!

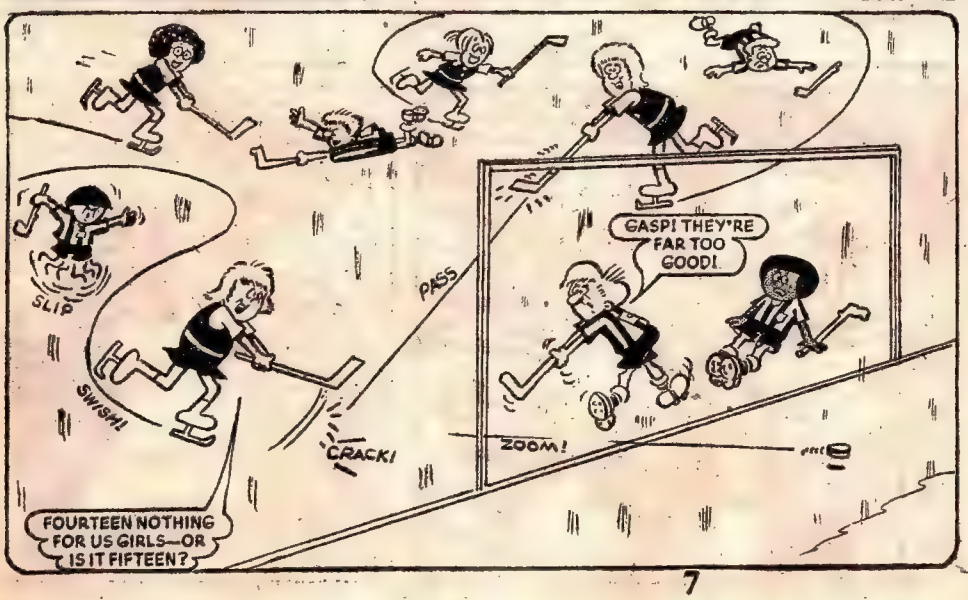
So—
WELL, WE'VE ALL MANAGED TO GET MAKE-SHIFT STICKS.
BUT WE'LL NEED A PUCK.
I'VE GOT SOMETHING IN MY HOLD-ALL THAT'LL DO.
DIMMY

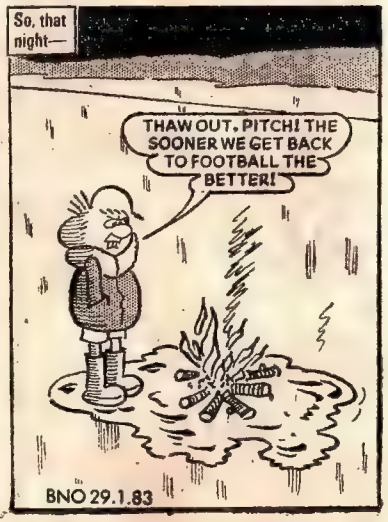
THIS BOOT POLISH TIN IS THE RIGHT SHAPE.
WRONG COLOUR FOR HIS BLACK BOOTS, THOUGH—IT'S BROWN POLISH!


So—
GOAL!
ZIP!
PASS

Later—
WOODWORM
WE'RE THE UNDISPUTED ICE HOCKEY CHAMPS!
NOT QUITE!

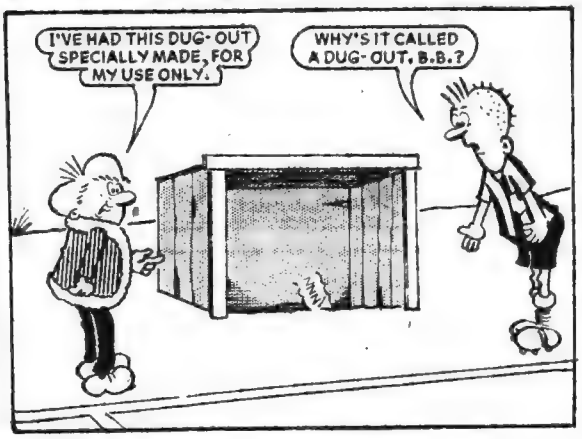
OUR HOCKEY OPPONENTS DIDN'T TURN UP, SO WE'LL CHALLENGE YOU!

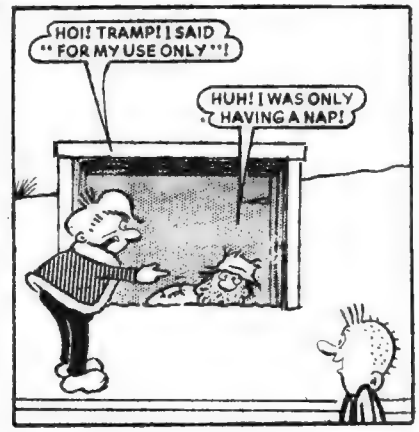

SLIP
SWISH!
PASS
CRACK!
GASP! THEY'RE FAR TOO GOOD!
ZOOM!
FOURTEEN NOTHING FOR US GIRLS—OR IS IT FIFTEEN?


So, that night—
THAW OUT, PITCH! THE SOONER WE GET BACK TO FOOTBALL THE BETTER!
BNO 29.1.83

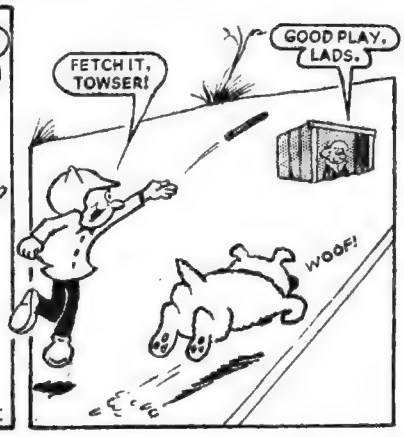
# BALL BOY

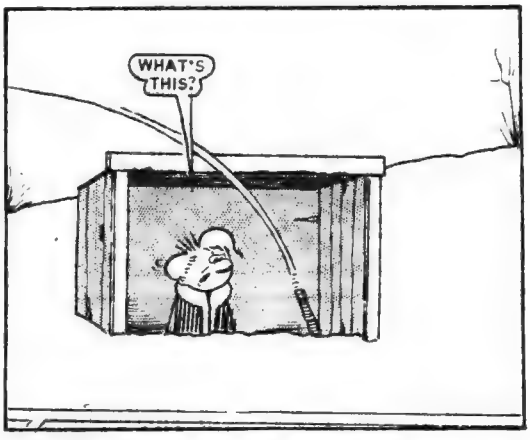
I'M NOT PLAYING TODAY READERS–I'M IN THE MANAGER'S ROLE.

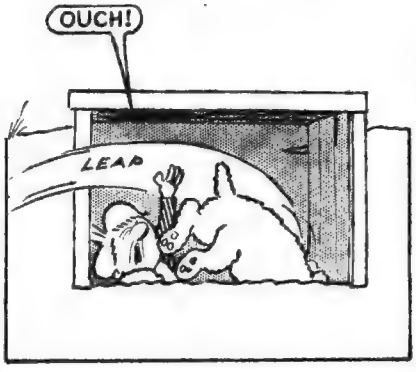

I'VE HAD THIS DUG-OUT SPECIALLY MADE, FOR MY USE ONLY.
WHY'S IT CALLED A DUG-OUT, B.B.?

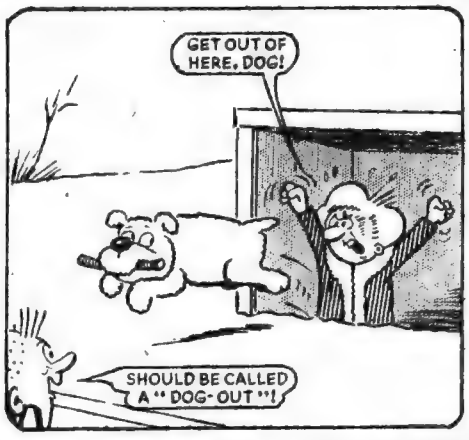

HOI! TRAMP! I SAID "FOR MY USE ONLY"!
HUH! I WAS ONLY HAVING A NAP!

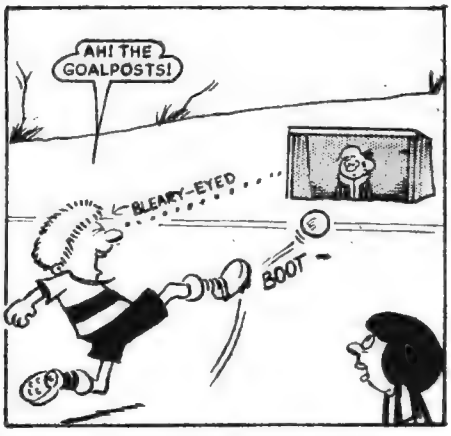
MARK THAT NUMBER NINE, BENJY!
HOPE THE GAME DOESN'T GO TO EXTRA TIME. I WANT THAT NAP LATER.

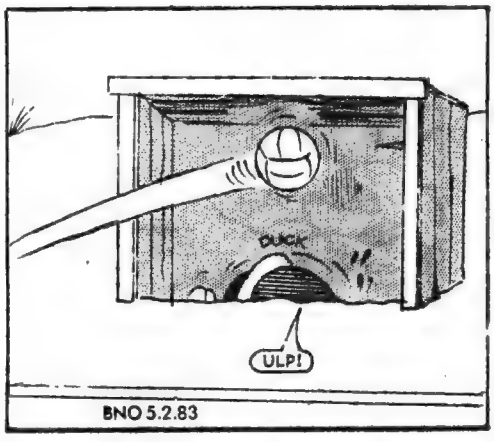

FETCH IT, TOWSER!
GOOD PLAY, LADS.
WOOF!


WHAT'S THIS?


OUCH!
LEAP


GET OUT OF HERE, DOG!
SHOULD BE CALLED A "DOG-OUT"!

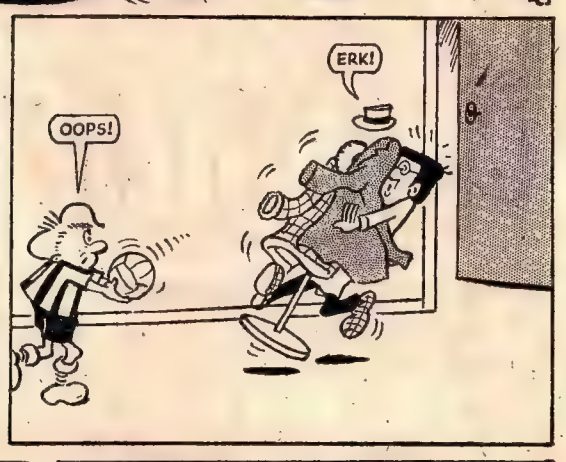

AH! THE GOALPOSTS!
BLEARY-EYED
BOOT

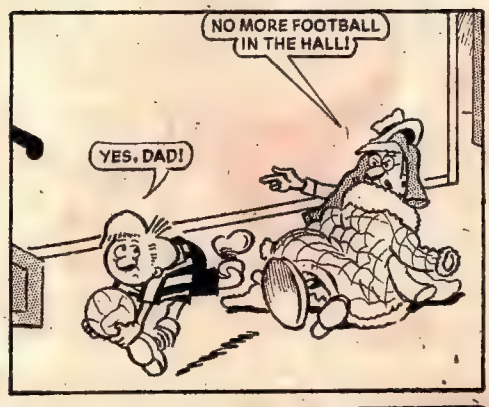

DUCK
ULP!
BNO 5.2.83

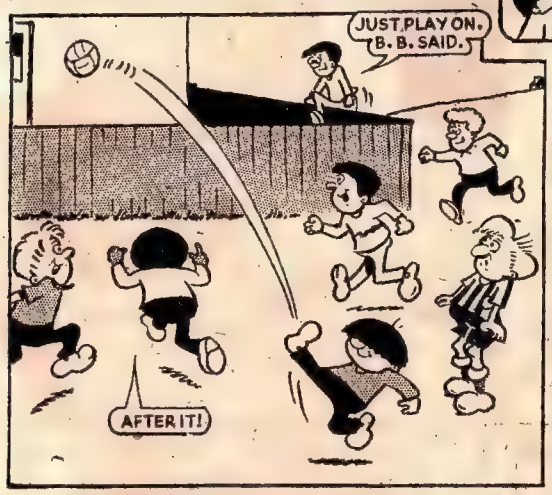
CRASH!

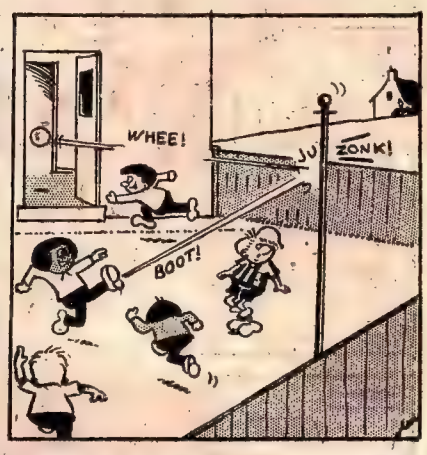
GET ME DUG OUT OF HERE!
SO THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED A DUG-OUT!

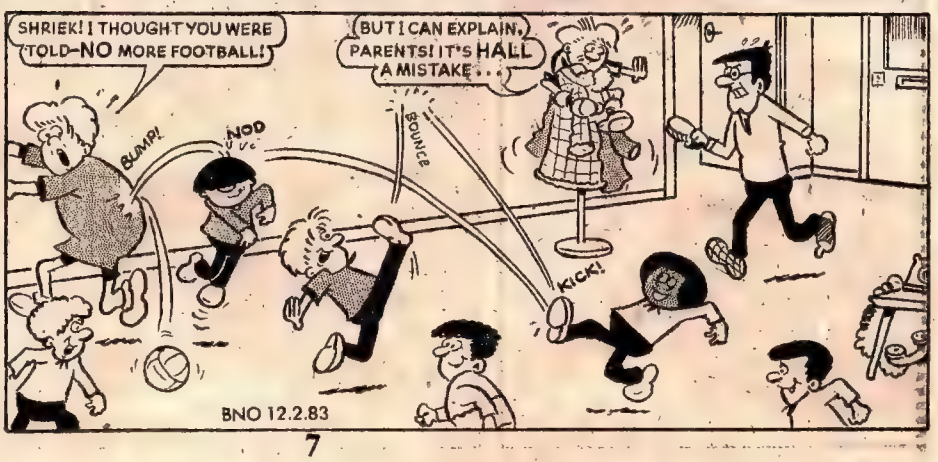
# BALL BOY



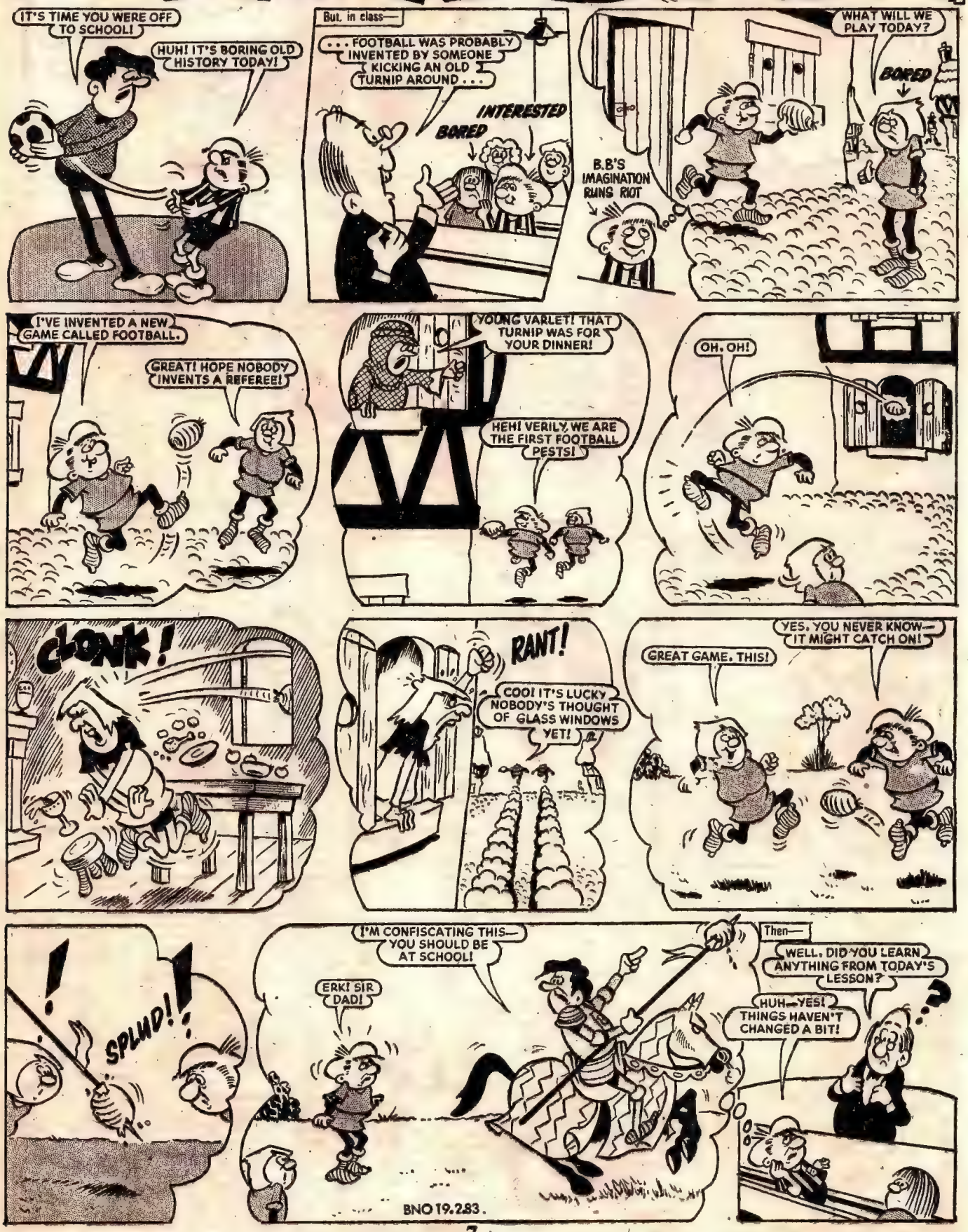




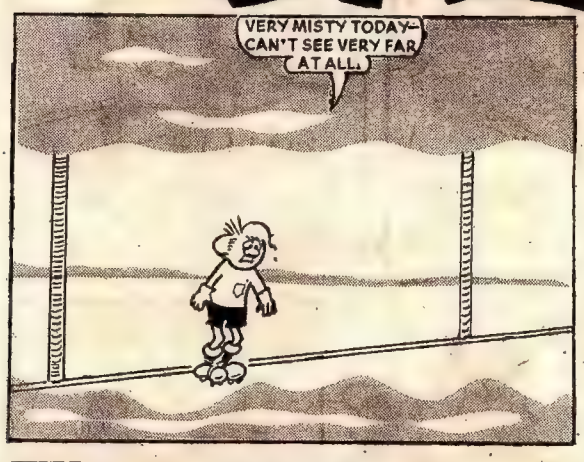



BNO 12.2.83

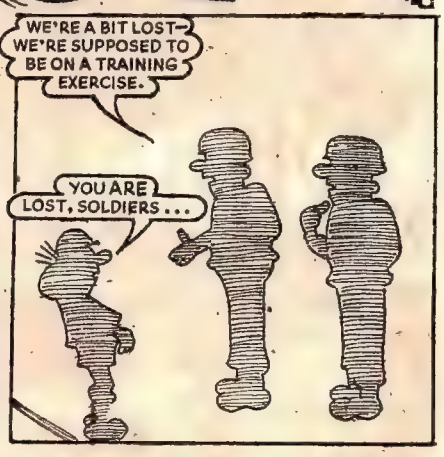
# BALL BOY

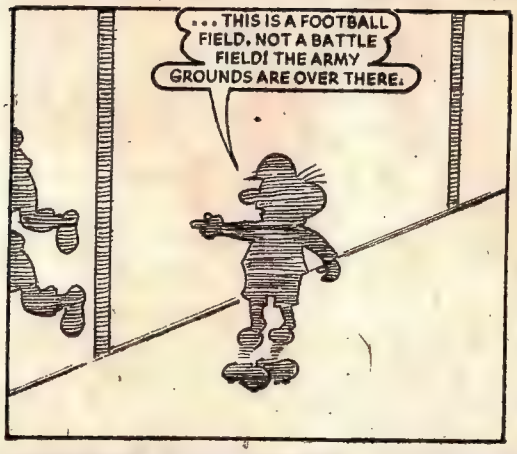

IT'S TIME YOU WERE OFF TO SCHOOL!
HUH! IT'S BORING OLD HISTORY TODAY!
But, in class—
. . . FOOTBALL WAS PROBABLY INVENTED BY SOMEONE KICKING AN OLD TURNIP AROUND . . .
INTERESTED
BORED
B.B'S IMAGINATION RUNS RIOT
WHAT WILL WE PLAY TODAY?
BORED
I'VE INVENTED A NEW GAME CALLED FOOTBALL.
GREAT! HOPE NOBODY INVENTS A REFEREE!
YOUNG VARLET! THAT TURNIP WAS FOR YOUR DINNER!
HEH! VERILY, WE ARE THE FIRST FOOTBALL PESTS!
OH, OH!
CLONK!
RANT!
COO! IT'S LUCKY NOBODY'S THOUGHT OF GLASS WINDOWS YET!
GREAT GAME, THIS!
YES, YOU NEVER KNOW— IT MIGHT CATCH ON!
SPLUD!
I'M CONFISCATING THIS— YOU SHOULD BE AT SCHOOL!
ERK! SIR DAD!
Then—
WELL, DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING FROM TODAY'S LESSON?
HUH—YES! THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!
BNO 19.2.83.

# BALL BOY

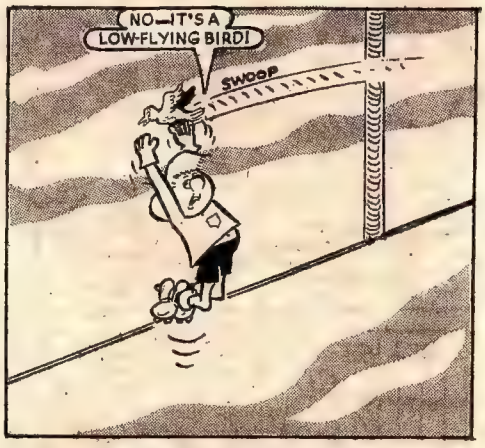

VERY MISTY TODAY— CAN'T SEE VERY FAR AT ALL.

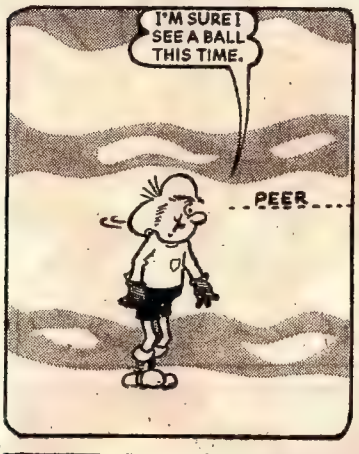
AH! OUR OPPONENTS MUST BE ATTACKING!

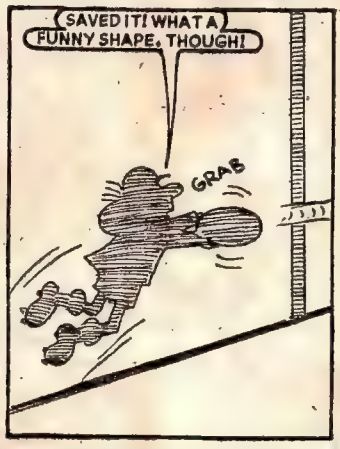

WE'RE A BIT LOST— WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON A TRAINING EXERCISE.
YOU ARE LOST, SOLDIERS . . .


. . . THIS IS A FOOTBALL FIELD, NOT A BATTLE FIELD! THE ARMY GROUNDS ARE OVER THERE.

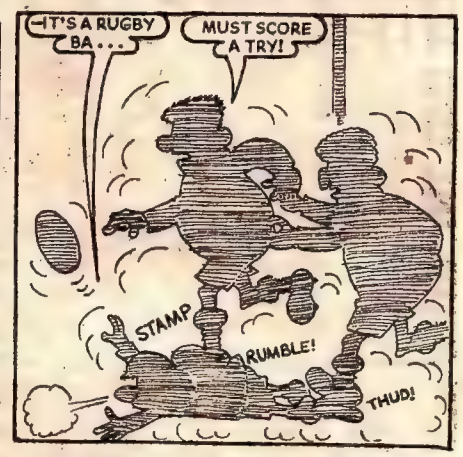
IT'S A HIGH CROSS . . .

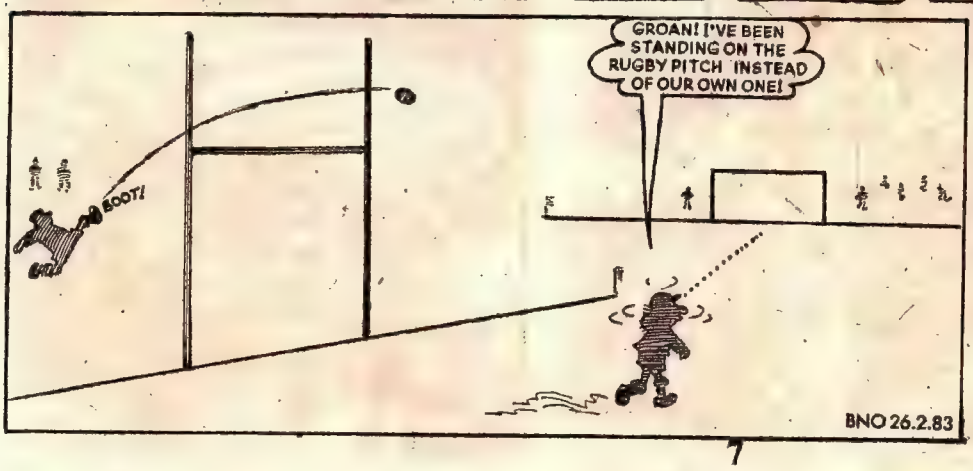

NO—IT'S A LOW-FLYING BIRD!
SWOOP

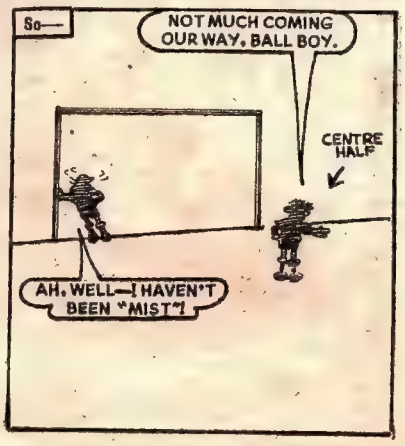

I'M SURE I SEE A BALL THIS TIME.
. . PEER . . . .


SAVED IT! WHAT A FUNNY SHAPE, THOUGH!
GRAB

OH, NO! IT'S NOT OUT OF SHAPE AT ALL—


—IT'S A RUGBY BA . . .
MUST SCORE A TRY!
STAMP
RUMBLE!
THUD!


BOOT!
GROAN! I'VE BEEN STANDING ON THE RUGBY PITCH INSTEAD OF OUR OWN ONE!
BNO 26.2.83


So—
NOT MUCH COMING OUR WAY, BALL BOY.
CENTRE HALF
AH, WELL—I HAVEN'T BEEN "MIST"!

# BALL BOY

WE'RE A MAN SHORT, BENJY.

THERE'S DAVID RINGAMMY— HE COULD PLAY FOR US!

GET READY, DAVID! YOU'RE IN THE TEAM!

BUT I'M NOT A FOOTBALLER— I ONLY STUDY WILDLIFE!

Shortly—

HMM! A WOODPECKER, IS IT?

RAT-A-TAT!

I'LL TAKE THIS CORNER.

YES—DEFINITELY A WOODPECKER.

OOOW!

BONK!

Then—

WAAH! A WOLF!

EH?

SORRY ABOUT THIS, BOYS!

NO—THAT'S JUST MR McLAREN'S SHORT-SIGHTED DOG!

TOSS

THIS IS YOUR BALL, BLEARY DOG!

A GOOD PASS.

I HEAR A MOLE TUNNELLING.

WHERE'S IT GOING?

TOWARDS THE GOALS.

THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW!

YOU'VE SEEN PLENTY OF WILD LIFE IN THIS MATCH, DAVID!

WHAT IS HE? A MOLE KEEPER OR A GOAL KEEPER?

TUNNELLING PEST!

HAH! WHAT A SOFT SHOT! EASY SAVE!

TAP

DIGGING SOUNDS!

But—

FALL

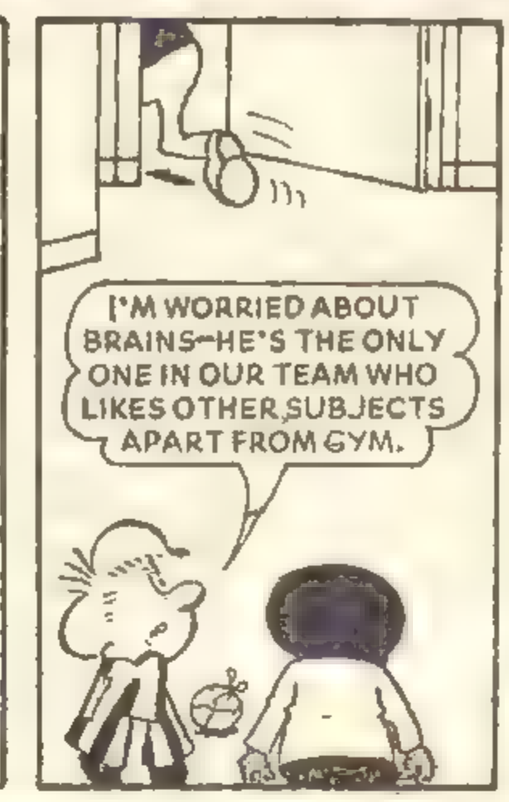
YOWP!

GOAL! IT WORKED!

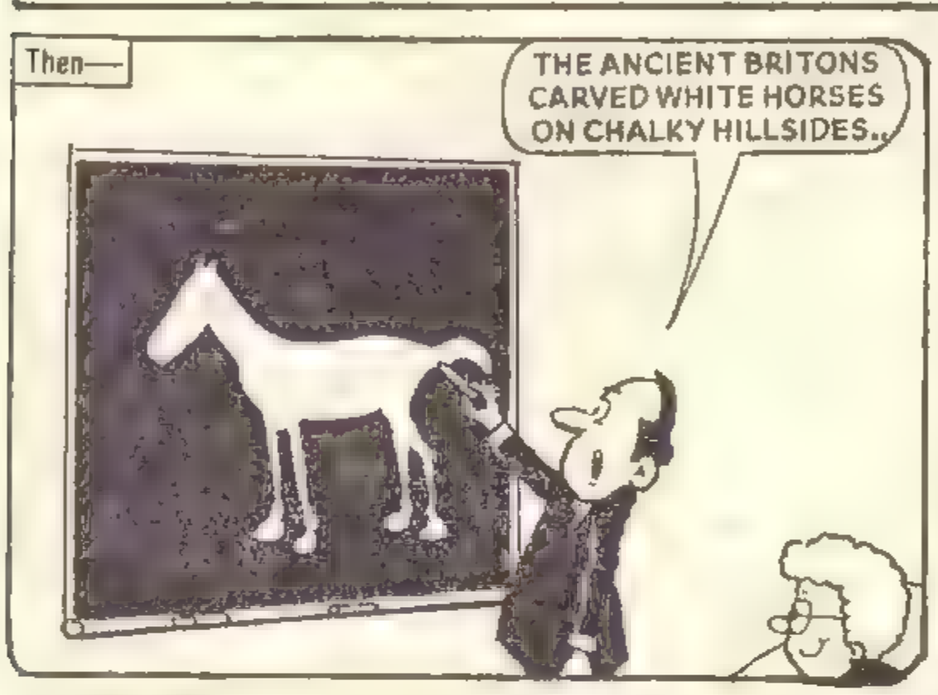
BNO 5.3.83

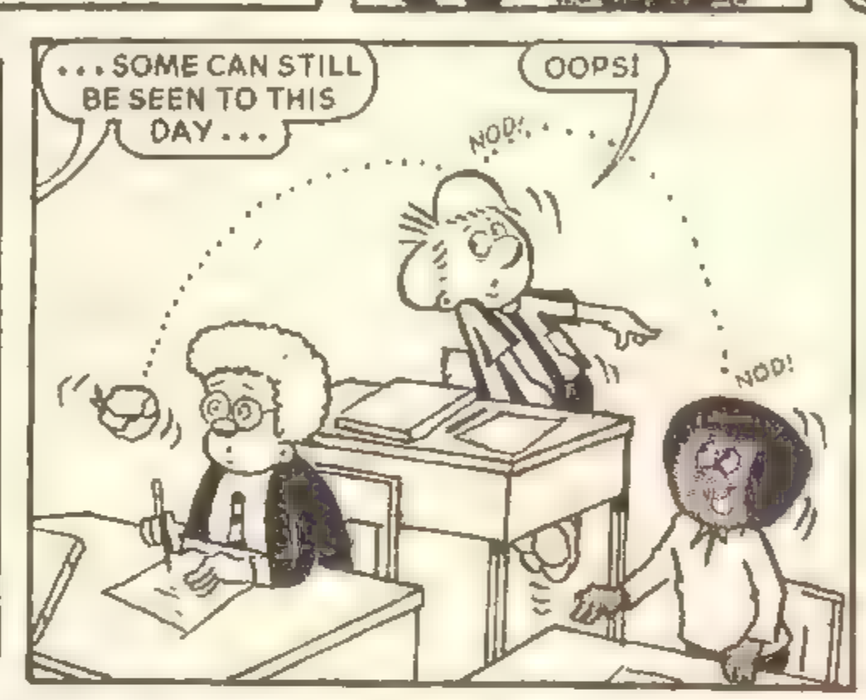
# BALL BOY

In school—
HURRY ALONG YOU TWO—HISTORY CLASS NOW!

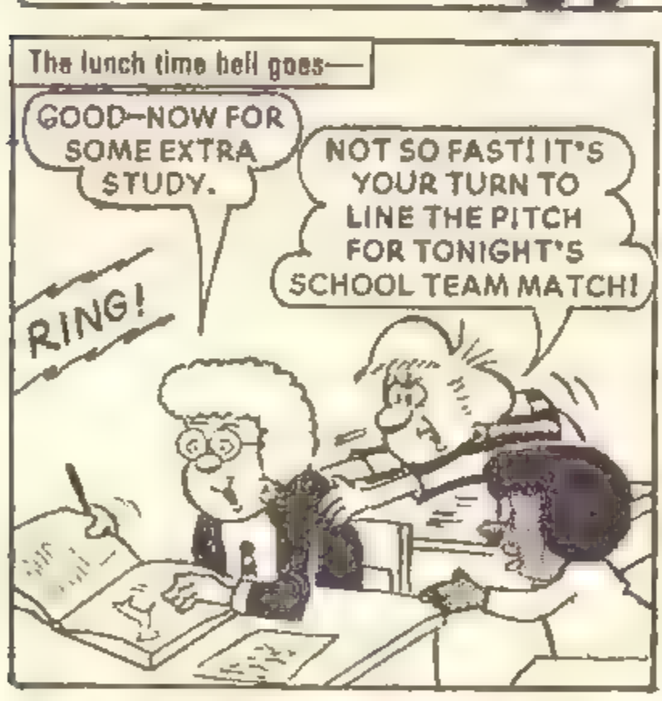

I'M WORRIED ABOUT BRAINS—HE'S THE ONLY ONE IN OUR TEAM WHO LIKES OTHER SUBJECTS APART FROM GYM.

I LOVE HISTORY!
ONLY HISTORY I LIKE IS OLD CUP FINAL CLIPS ON TV!


Then—
THE ANCIENT BRITONS CARVED WHITE HORSES ON CHALKY HILLSIDES..


...SOME CAN STILL BE SEEN TO THIS DAY...
OOPS!
NOD!
NOD!

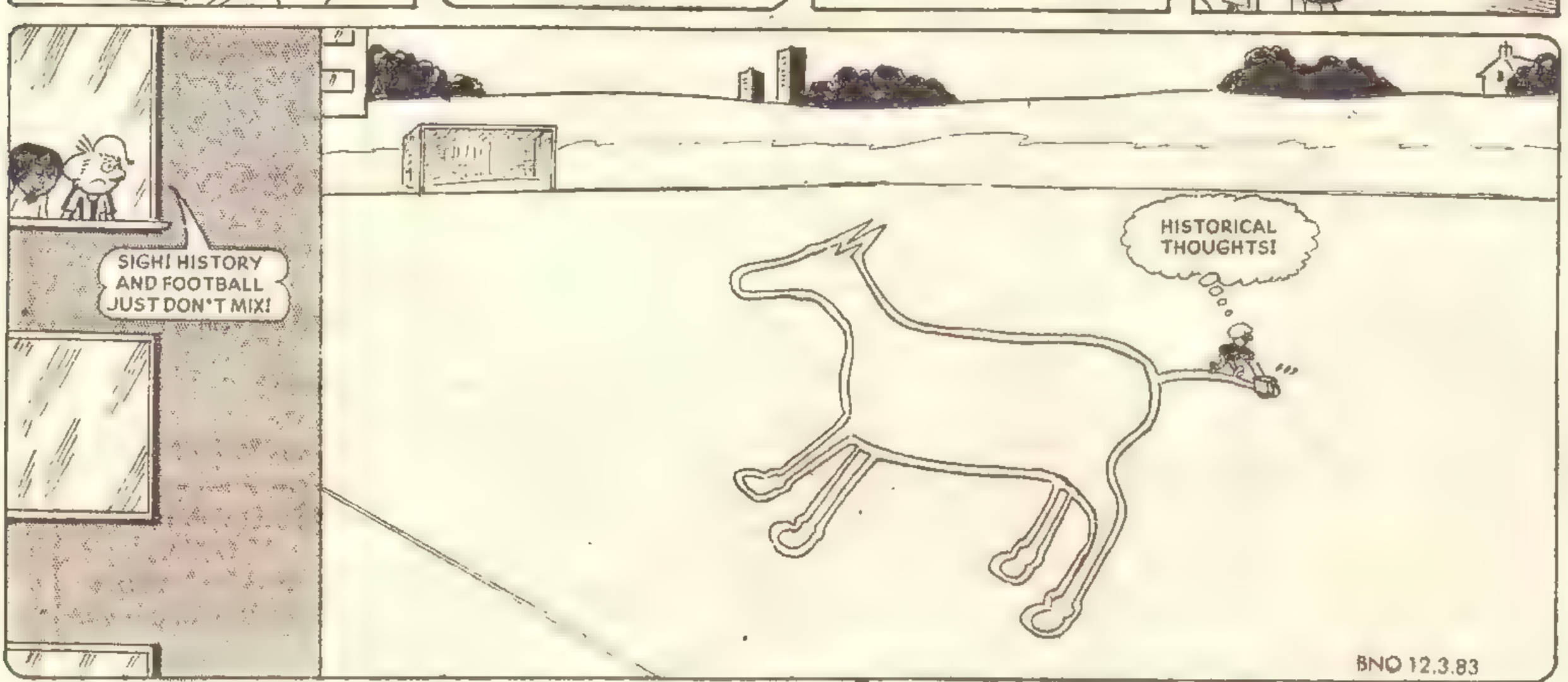
GIVE US OUR BALL BACK, BRAINS!
NO—I'M KEEPING IT SO YOU'LL PAY ATTENTION!


The lunch time bell goes—
GOOD—NOW FOR SOME EXTRA STUDY.
NOT SO FAST! IT'S YOUR TURN TO LINE THE PITCH FOR TONIGHT'S SCHOOL TEAM MATCH!
RING!

AW! I CAN'T STUDY NOW.

Later—
BRAINS IS GOOD AT ART TOO, SO HE SHOULD MAKE A TIDY JOB OF MARKING OUT THE PITCH.

Then—
GASP! LOOK, BENJY!


SIGH! HISTORY AND FOOTBALL JUST DON'T MIX!
HISTORICAL THOUGHTS!
BNO 12.3.83

# BALL BOY

HAW! HAW! ENJOY YOUR SHOPPING, BENJY! I'M OFF TO PLAY FOOTBALL.

HUH!

SALE

SNAP!

BENJY'S MUM

AW, NO! BOTH MY LACES HAVE SNAPPED— I'LL NEED NEW ONES.

SNAP!

I SHOULD GET THEM IN THIS SPORTS SHOP.

OPEN

WOBBLE

SORRY! WE'RE SOLD OUT. TRY NEXT DOOR.

LACES

THE SWEET SHOP

NEXT DOOR, DID HE SAY?

HMM! TWO LIQUORICE LACES, PLEASE.

LIQUORICE LACES

THE SWEET SHOP

SUPPOSE THESE'LL HAVE TO DO.

Then—

AH!

LIQUORICE AROMA

ZOOM!

SLURP! GNASH!

NO, GNASHER— DON'T EAT MY LACES!

But—

HUH! DISOBEDIENT DOG!

GONE!

SLURP! NEVER COULD RESIST LIQUORICE.

IF IT'S LACES YOU WANT, FOLLOW ME, B.B.!

RIGHT!

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

And—

YES? CAN I HELP YOU?

BALL BOY NEEDS SOME LACES.

DO YOU LIKE ANY OF THESE LACES, BALL BOY?

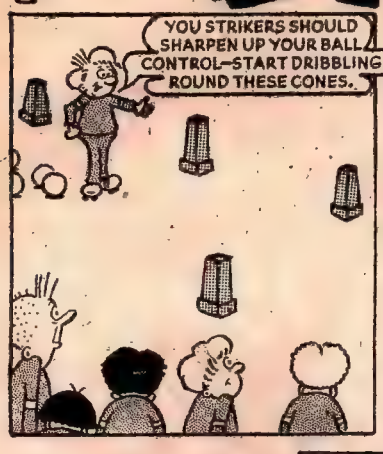
LACE SHOP

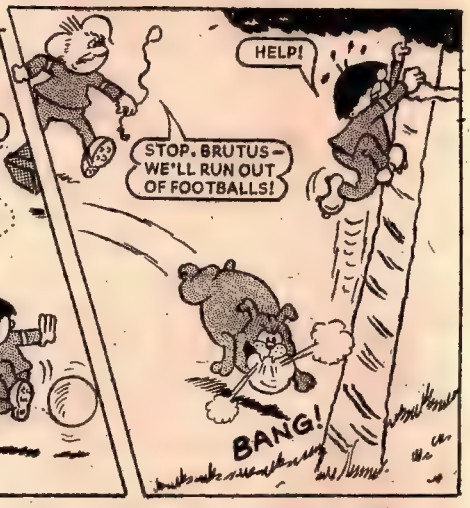
GROAN!

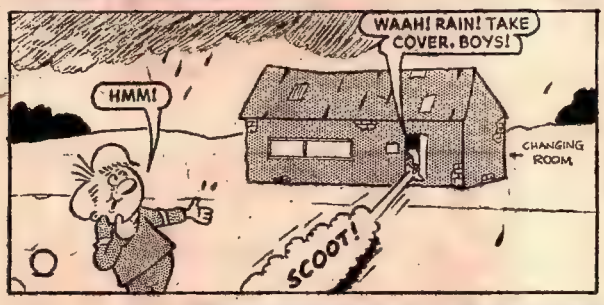
ENJOYING YOURSELF, B.B.?

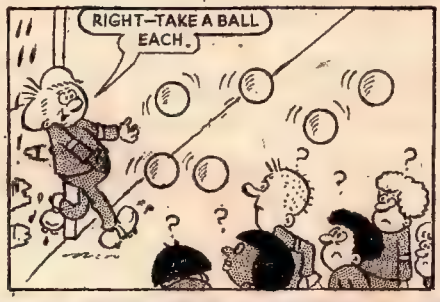
BNO 19.3.83

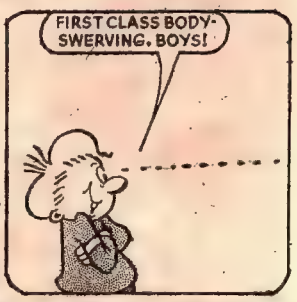
# BALL BOY

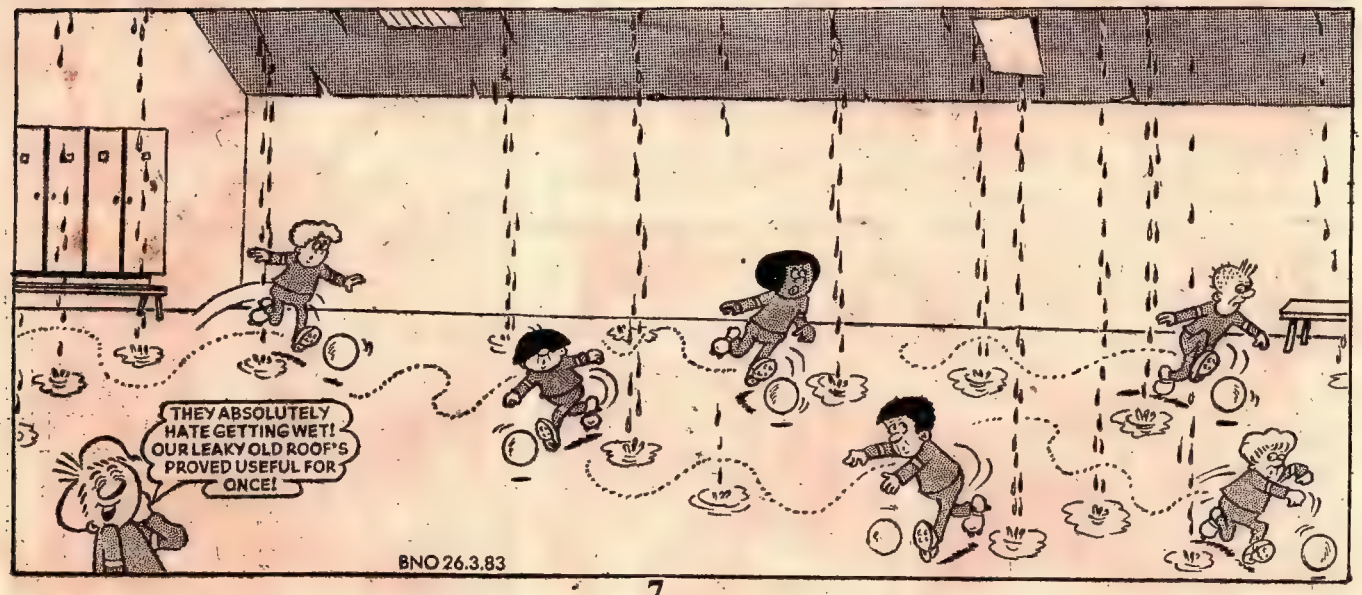





BNO 26.3.83

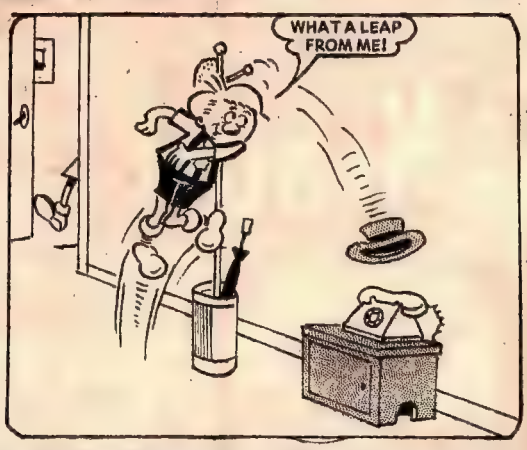
# BALL BOY

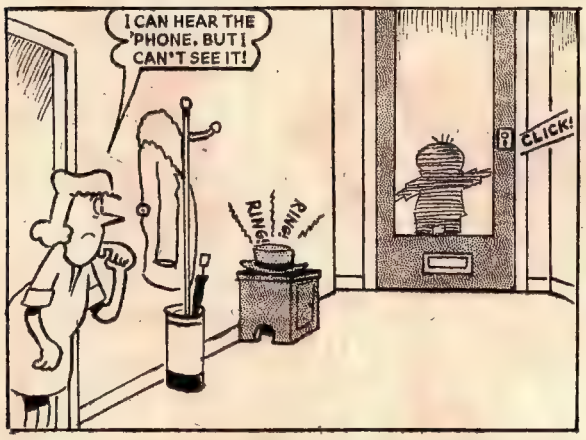
WOW! WHAT A CAR!
GUSH 2
CAN MY SON PLAY? HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN MY OIL BUSINESS, ONLY FOOTBALL.
SHEIK A-LEG
OK—WE'RE A MAN SHORT.
I'LL BE BACK AFTER THE GAME—SIGH!
RIGHT! WHERE ARE THE CHANGING PALACES?
Soon—
GOOD SHOT, ABDUL! HARD LINES!
Meanwhile—
BEST OIL PAINTING I'VE EVER DONE.
AARGH! IT'S RUINED!
SQUIRT
Soon—
IT'S TIME I FILLED UP THE OIL HEATER IN THE DRESSING ROOMS.
OOPS! I'VE OVER-SLID!
SLIDING TACKLE
HEY!
THUD!
YEEK!
HE'S DONE IT AGAIN!
GLUB!
The Sheik arrives—
HOW DID MY SON PLAY, BALL BOY?
WELL, HE STRUCK OIL TWICE!
BNO 9.4.83
AMAZED
TEACH ME, BALL BOY! DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD STRIKE OIL PLAYING FOOTBALL!
WHAT HAVE I STARTED?

# BALL BOY

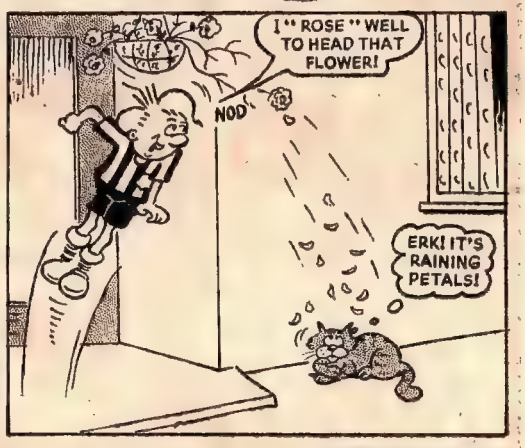
I THINK I'LL DO HEADING PRACTICE TODAY.
NOD NOD

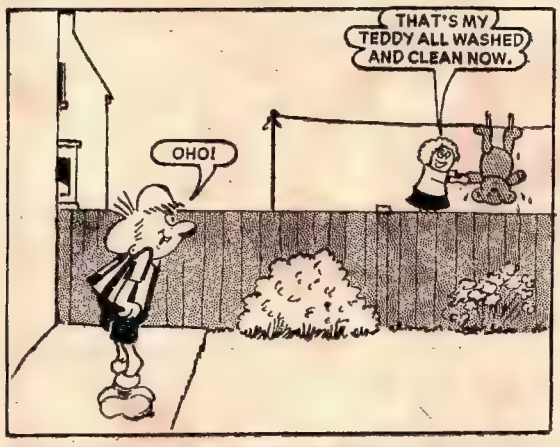
I'LL HEAD DAD'S HAT.

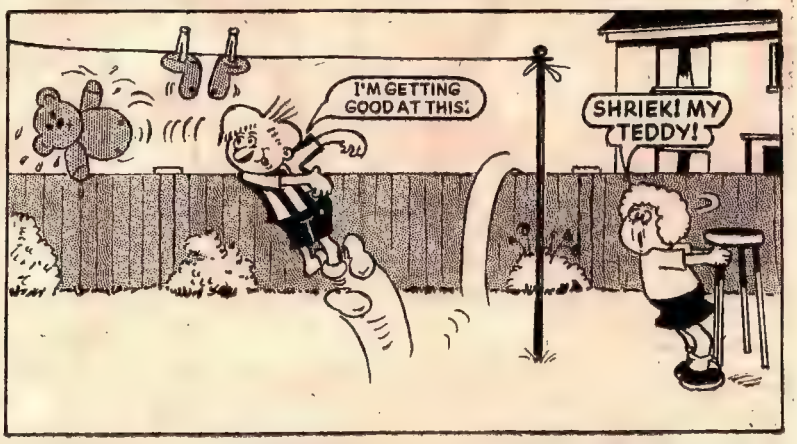

WHAT A LEAP FROM ME!


I CAN HEAR THE 'PHONE, BUT I CAN'T SEE IT!
RING!
RING!
CLICK!

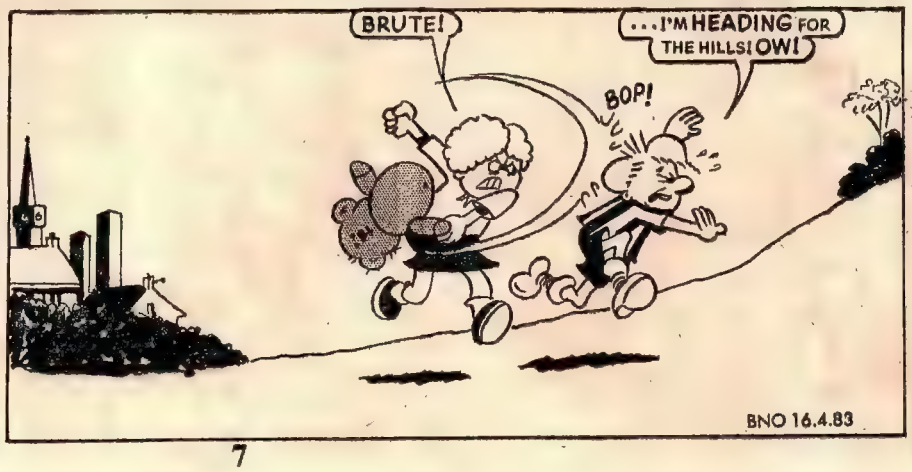
AHA!


I "ROSE" WELL TO HEAD THAT FLOWER!
NOD
ERK! IT'S RAINING PETALS!


THAT'S MY TEDDY ALL WASHED AND CLEAN NOW.
OHO!


I'M GETTING GOOD AT THIS!
SHRIEK! MY TEDDY!

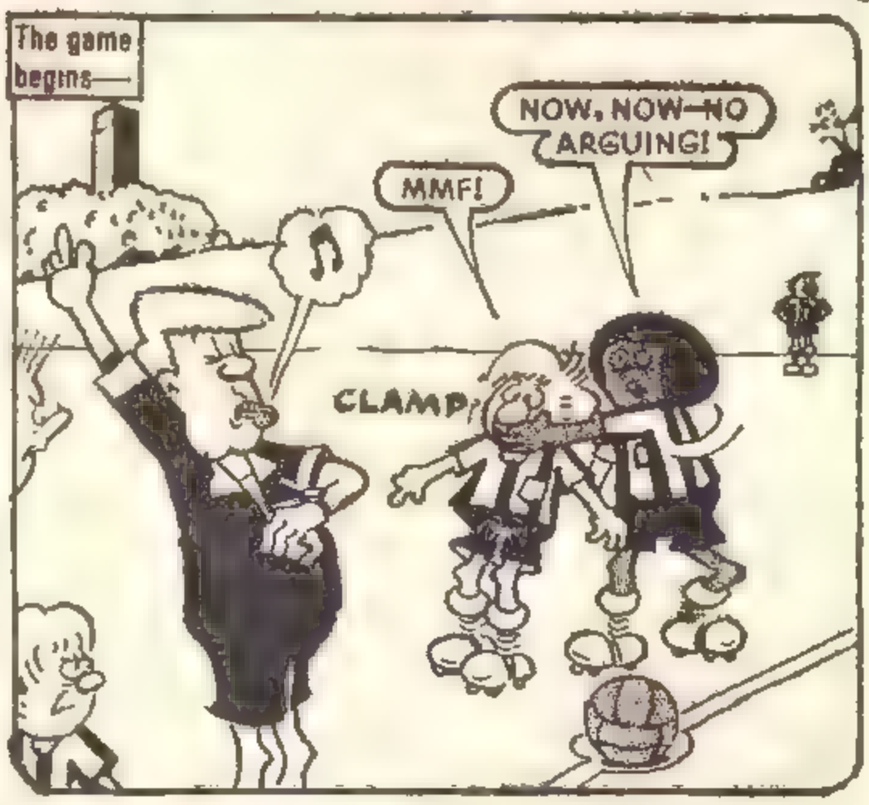
I'M GETTING LOTS OF HEADING PRACTICE NOW. READERS...


BRUTE!
...I'M HEADING FOR THE HILLS! OW!
BOP!
BNO 16.4.83

# BALL BOY

YOU'VE BEEN ARGUING WITH REFEREES RECENTLY, B.B.— CUT IT OUT!

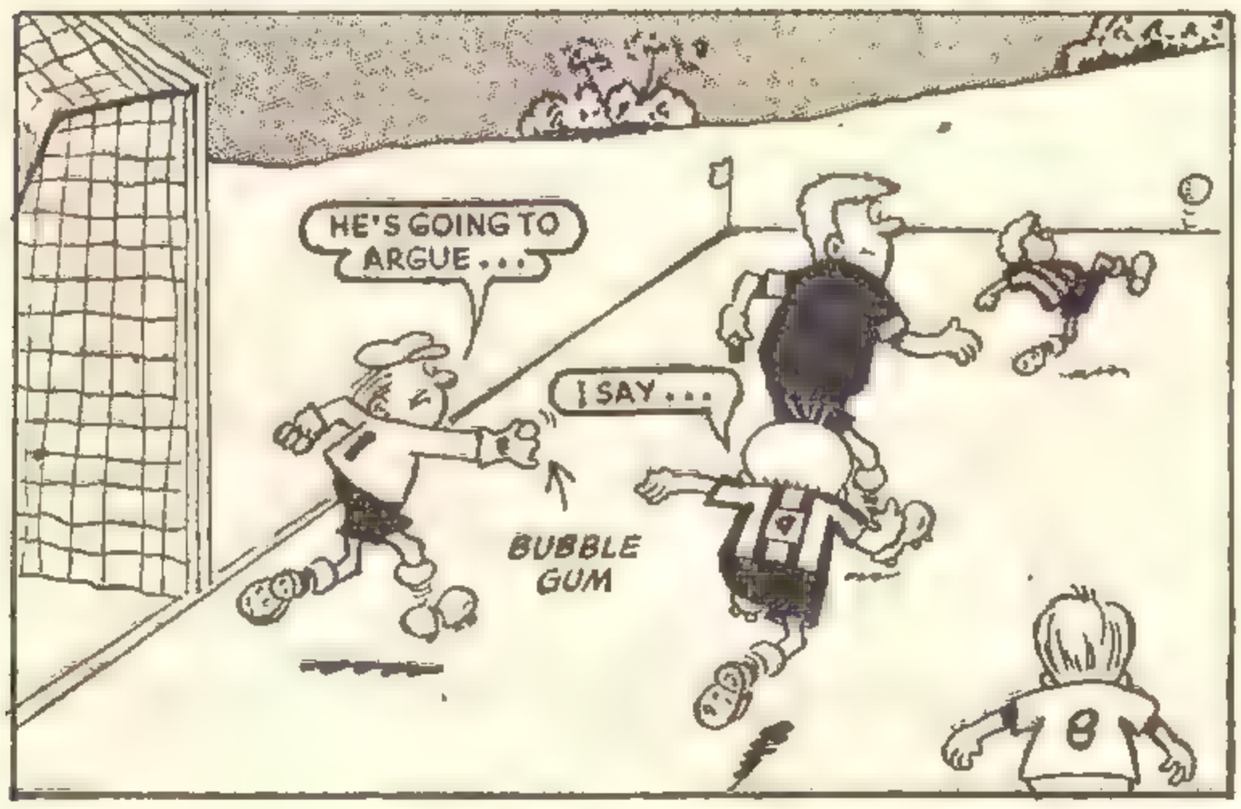
ME? I NEVER ARGUE! NOT ME! NOT EVER!
YOU'RE ARGUING AGAIN.


The game begins—
MMF!
NOW, NOW—NO ARGUING!
CLAMP

REF...
REACH

NNNG!
TIE
WHIP

TOSS
AT LEAST IT STOPPED HIM ARGUING.


HE'S GOING TO ARGUE...
I SAY...
BUBBLE GUM

HAVE SOME BUBBLE GUM, BALL BOY!

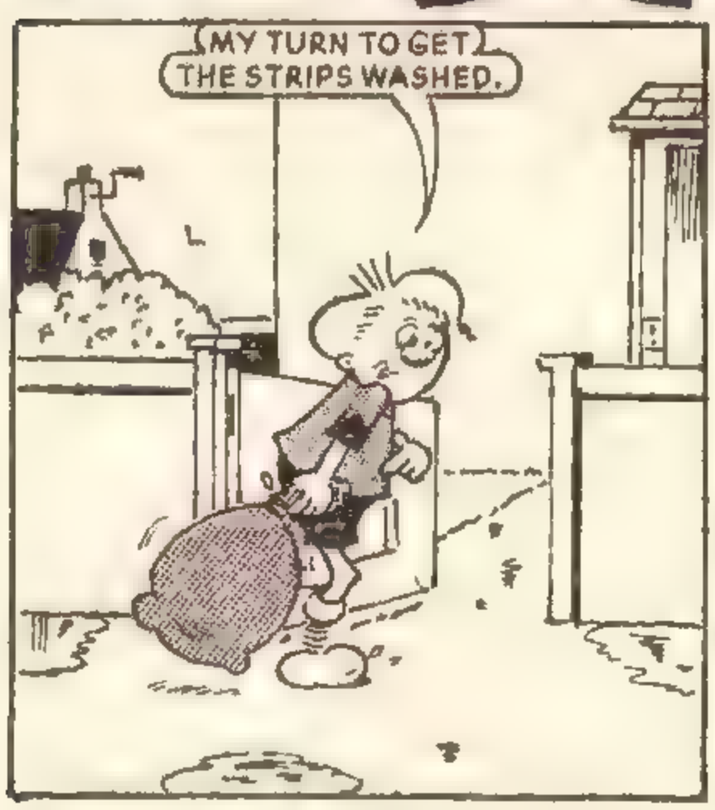
PHEW! IT WORKED!

NO-ONE'S LOOKING!

YOUR LACE IS LOOSE! I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU, REF...
OOPS!
TRIP
BNO 23.4.83

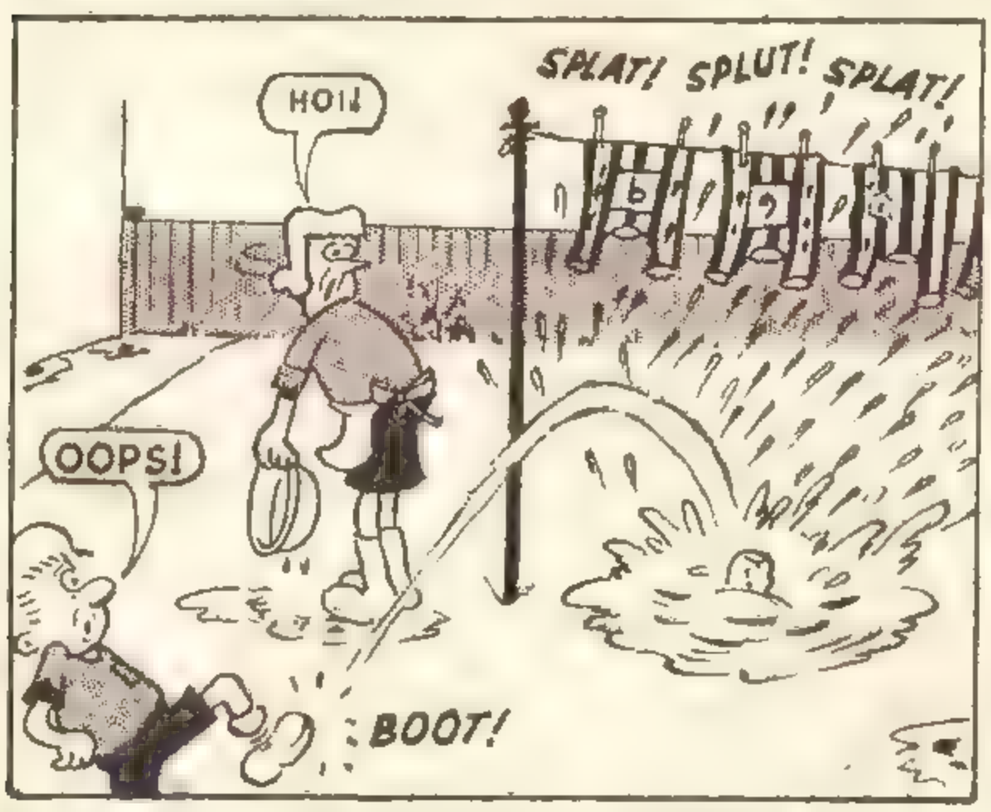
NEXT TIME YOU THINK B.B.'S GOING TO ARGUE— LET HIM!
HOW INNOCENT CAN YOU LOOK?

# BALL BOY

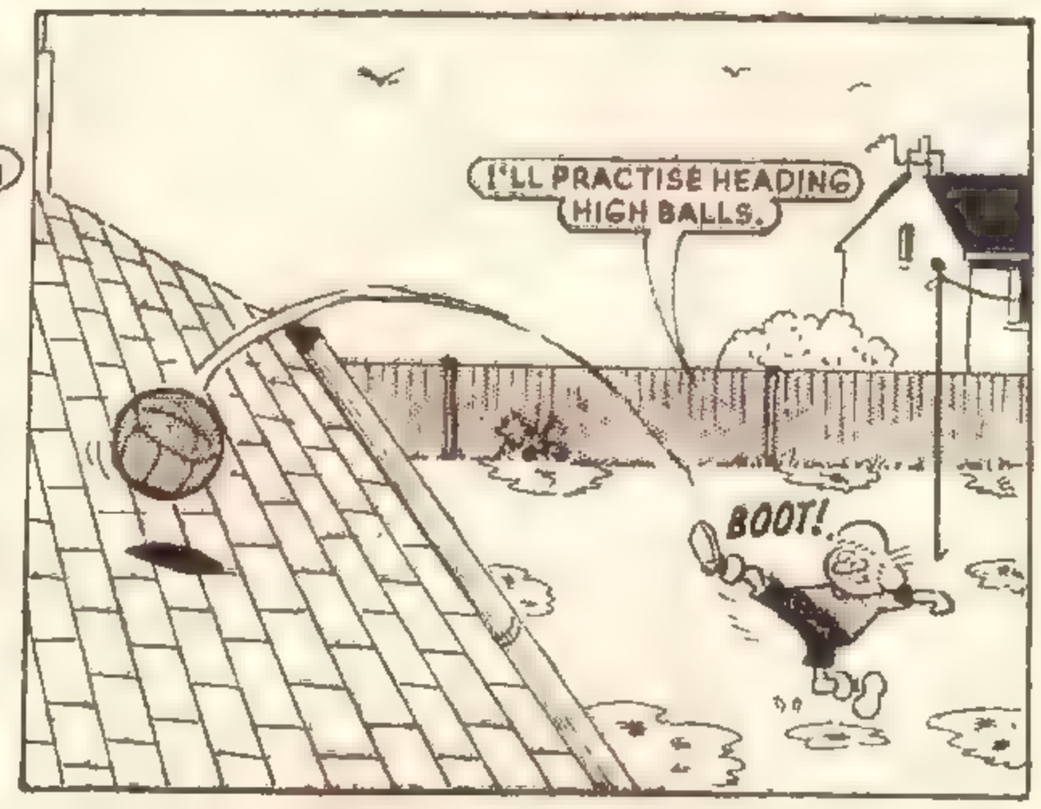

MY TURN TO GET THE STRIPS WASHED.

HAVE THESE READY FOR TONIGHT, WILL YOU, MUM?
BOOT!
SIGH!
FLUMP!

Soon—
THESE OLD TURNIPS HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE LAST YEAR.
I CAN'T RESIST IT!
TOSS!

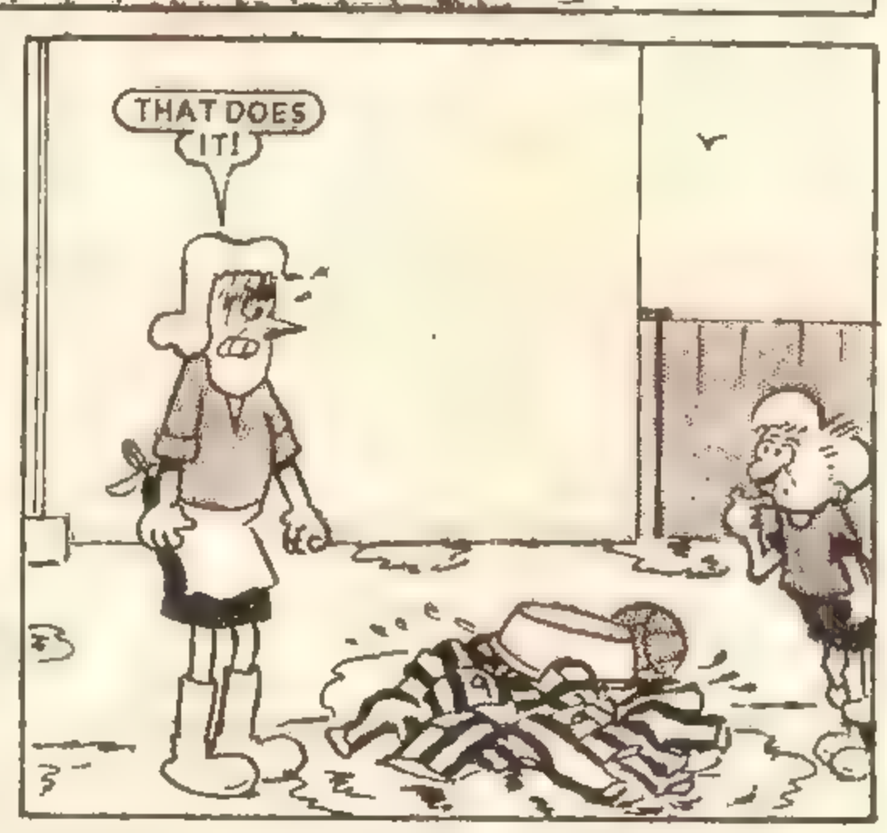

HOI!
SPLAT! SPLUT! SPLAT!
OOPS!
BOOT!

HMPH! I'VE GOT TO WASH THEM ALL AGAIN!

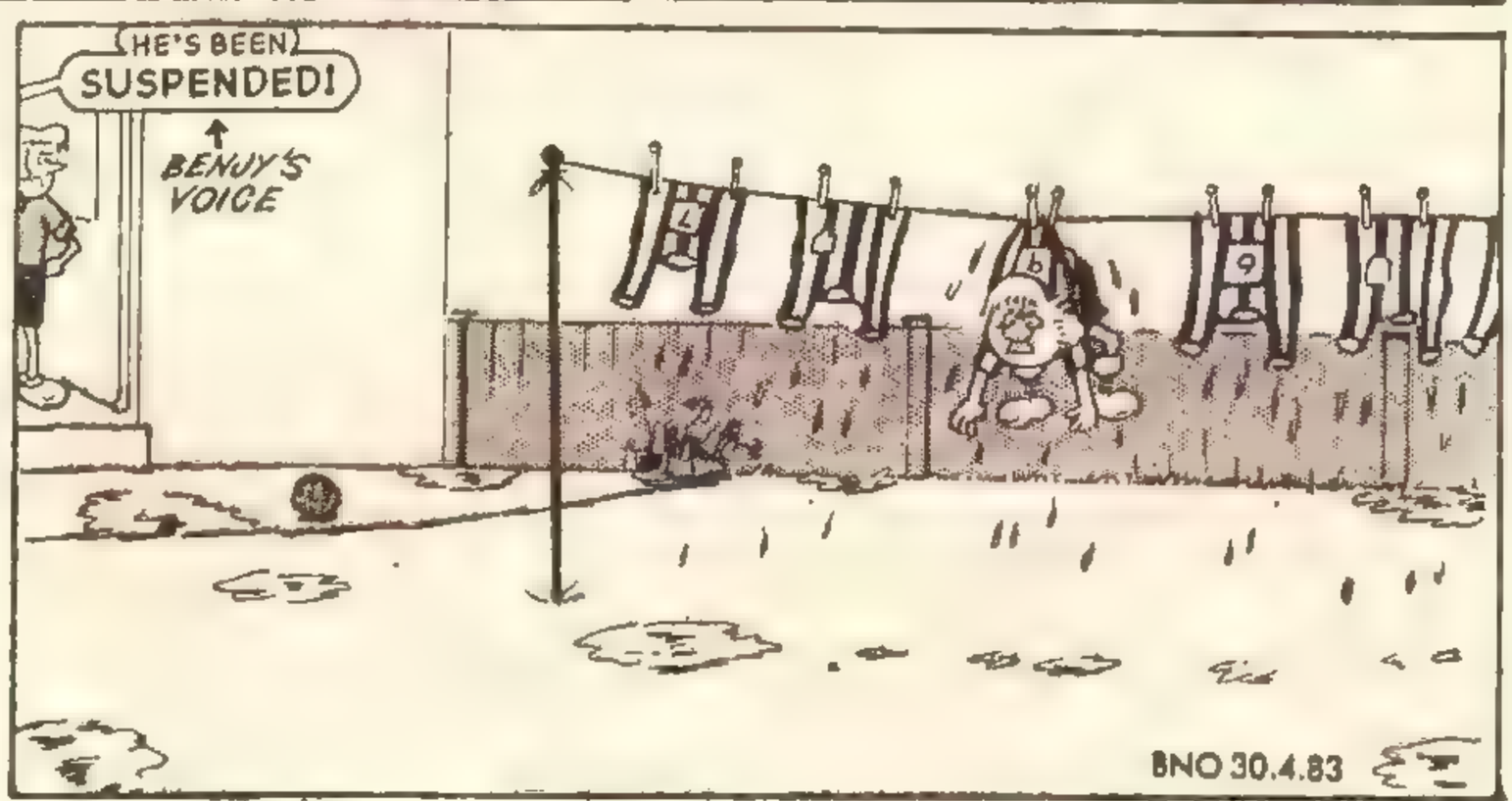

I'LL PRACTISE HEADING HIGH BALLS.
BOOT!

KEEP YOUR BALL AWAY FROM MY WASHING, SON.

HEY!
BUMP!
BOUNCE!


THAT DOES IT!

That evening—
I SEE YOU'RE PLAYING IN YOUR CHANGE STRIPS, AND WHERE'S BALL BOY?


HE'S BEEN SUSPENDED!
BENJY'S VOICE
BNO 30.4.83

# BALL BOY

I FEEL UNSTOPPABLE TODAY!
RUB! RUB!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

A CUTE CHIP— THEN I'LL STREAK BETWEEN THEM LIKE LIGHTNING!

HEH!
HEH!
OOOF!
CRUMP!
NO FOUL! PLAY ON!
REF'S VOICE

HAW! HAW! UNSTOPPABLE. ARE YOU?
I'LL SHOW YOU WHEN I GET THE BALL BACK!

OUT OF MY WAY!

HAW!
HAW!
CRUMP!
B.B.! STOP FALLING ABOUT ALL OVER THE PLACE!
NO FOUL! PLAY ON!
REF

SO! THEY'VE TIED A BIT OF STRING BETWEEN THEIR ANKLES—THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN TRIPPING!

HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS NEXT TRIP, BALL BOY!
ZOOM!
ZOOM!
GRAB

CRASH!
THROW
IT WORKED!
ZUNK!

A LITTLE BIT OF STRING NEVER STOPPED ME!
SNAP!
SHORTS STRING

FORGET I SAID THAT! HUH!
OFF TO DO REPAIRS

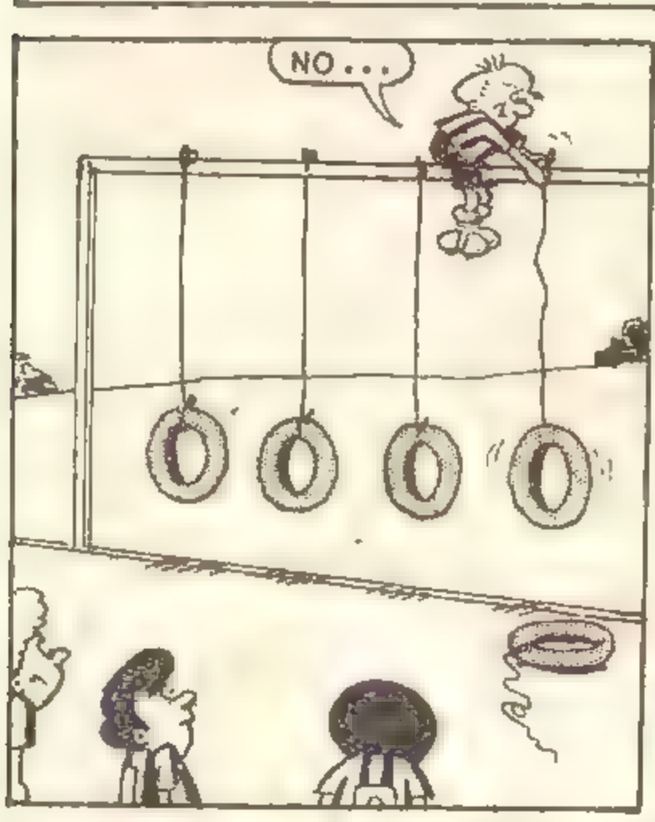
BNO 7.5.83

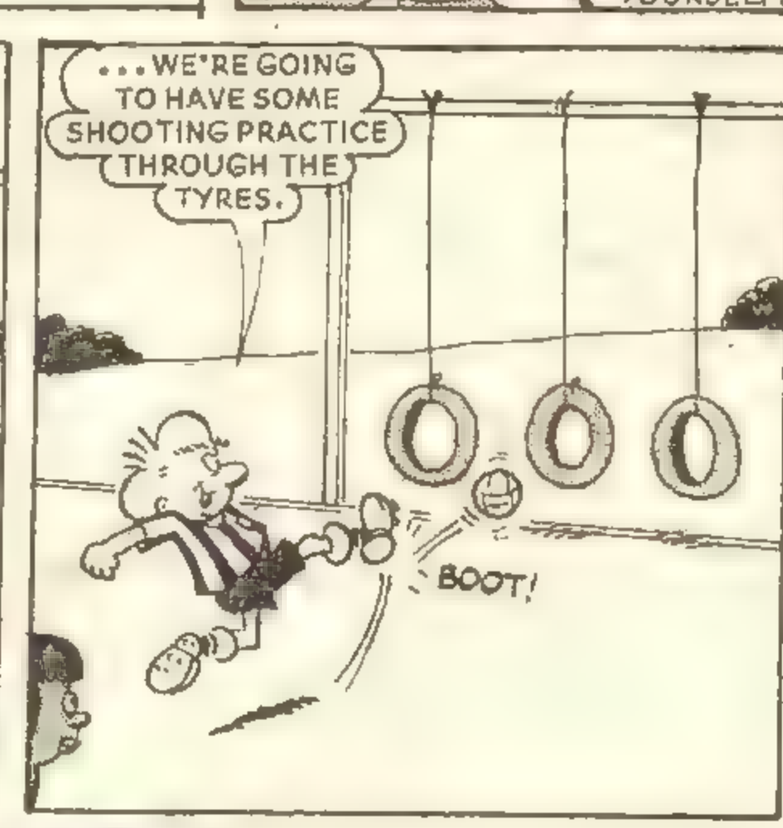
# BALL BOY

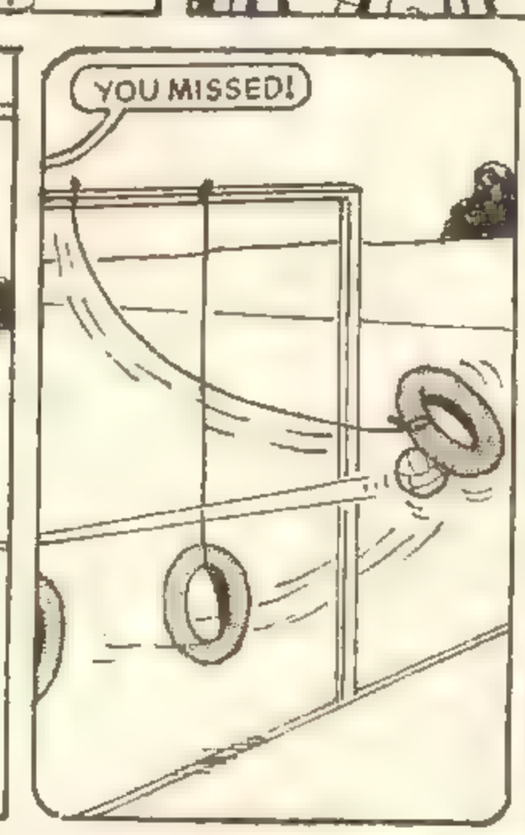
STAFF AND PLAYERS ONLY
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA—I'LL TRY IT WITH MY TEAM.
WHISPER!
MUDCHESTER UNITED TRAINER

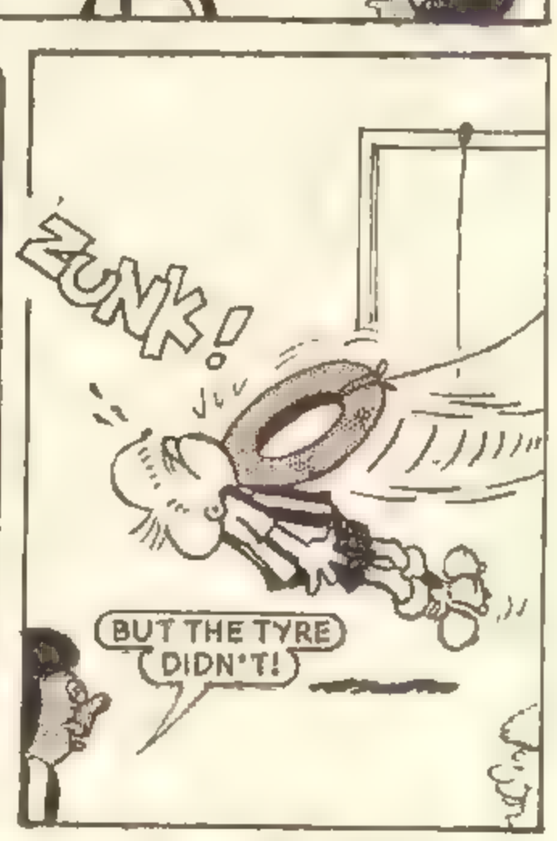
CAN I HAVE SOME OF THESE?
JUNK YARD
NOD
HELP YOURSELF.

WHAT'S THIS, B.B.? GOING TO BUILD OUR OWN TEAM COACH? HEH! HEH!


NO...


...WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME SHOOTING PRACTICE THROUGH THE TYRES.
BOOT!

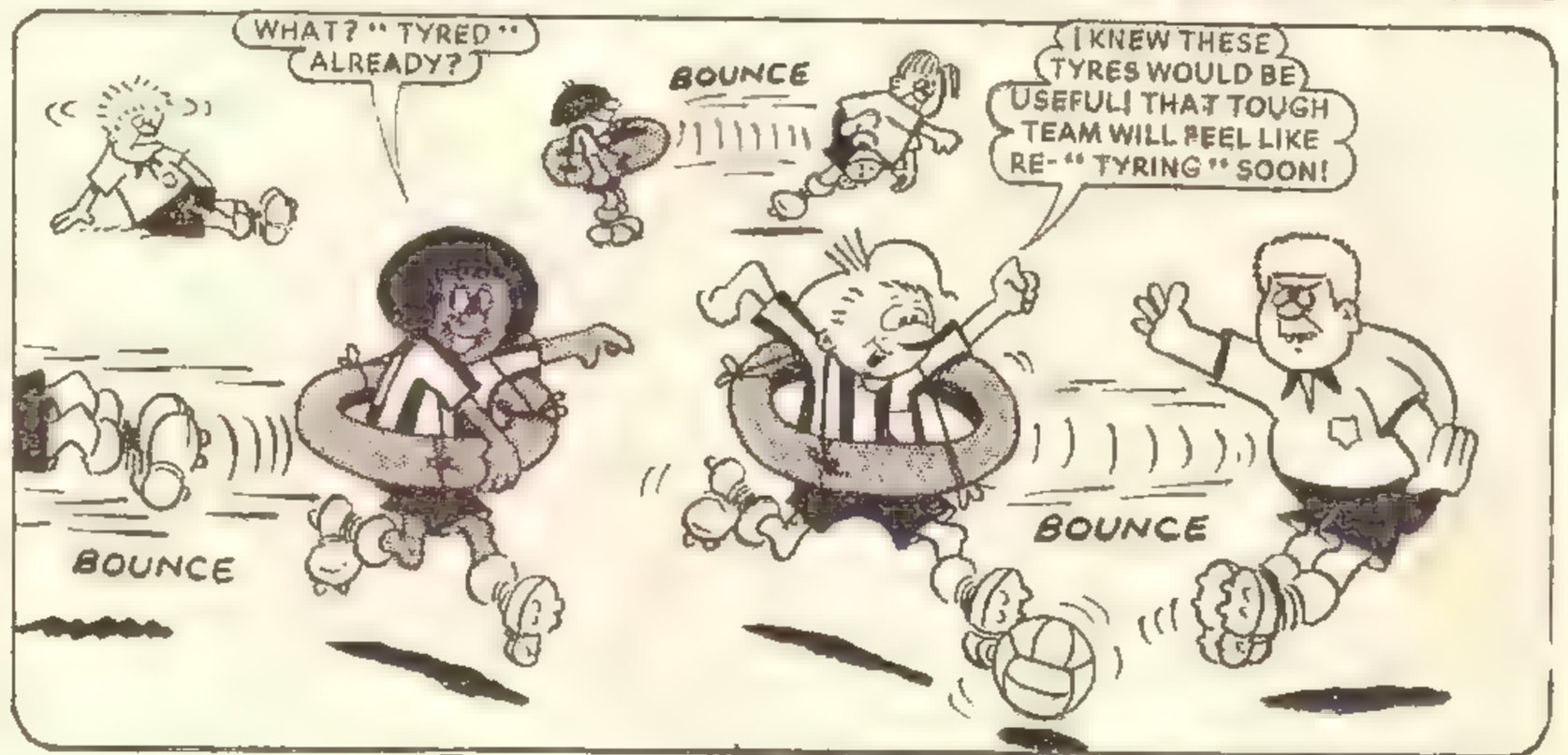

YOU MISSED!


ZUNK!
BUT THE TYRE DIDN'T!

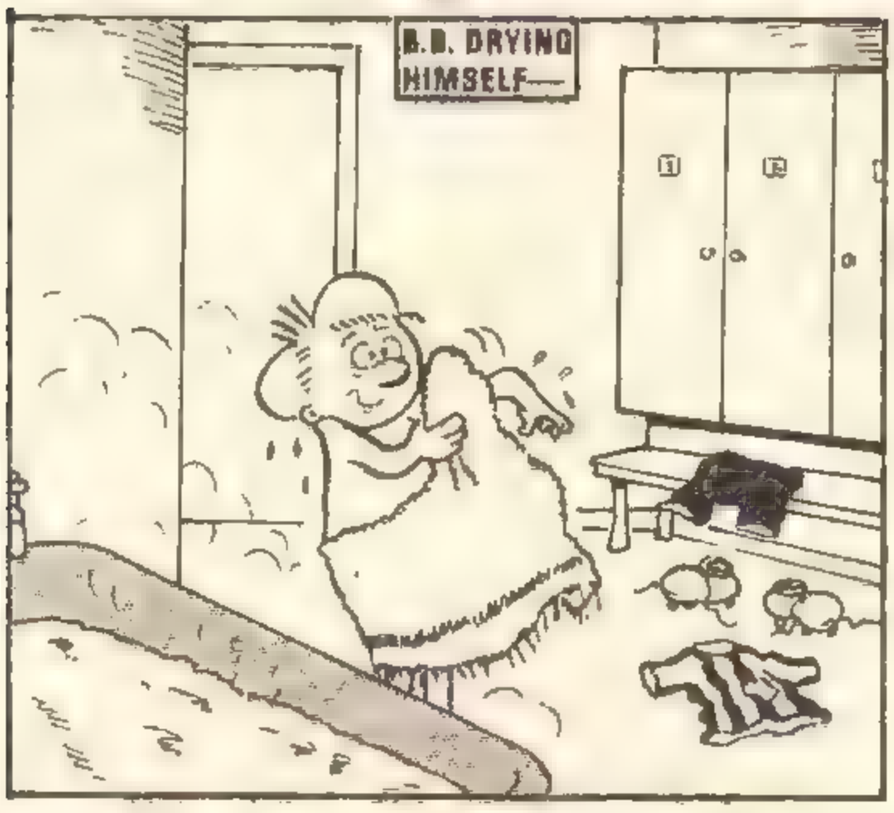
The opponents arrive—
WE SHOULD HAVE HAD BOXING PRACTICE INSTEAD—THEY'RE THE TOUGHEST TEAM IN THE LEAGUE.

HM! I WONDER?
QUAKE
QUAKE

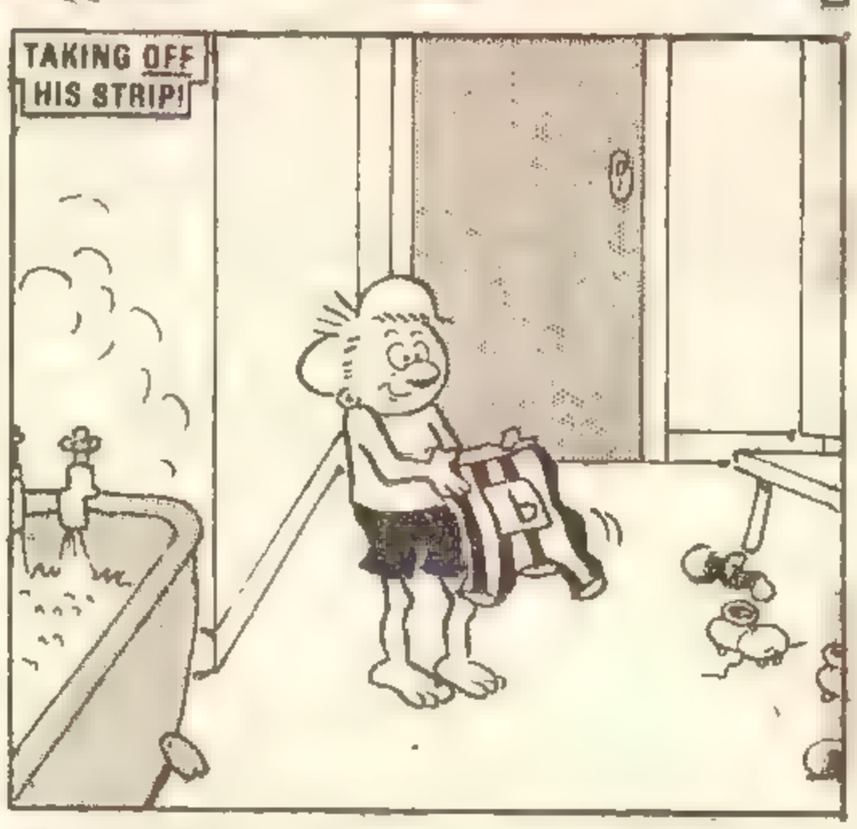
NOTHING IN THE RULES AGAINST IT.
F.A. RULE BOOK
BNO 14.5.83

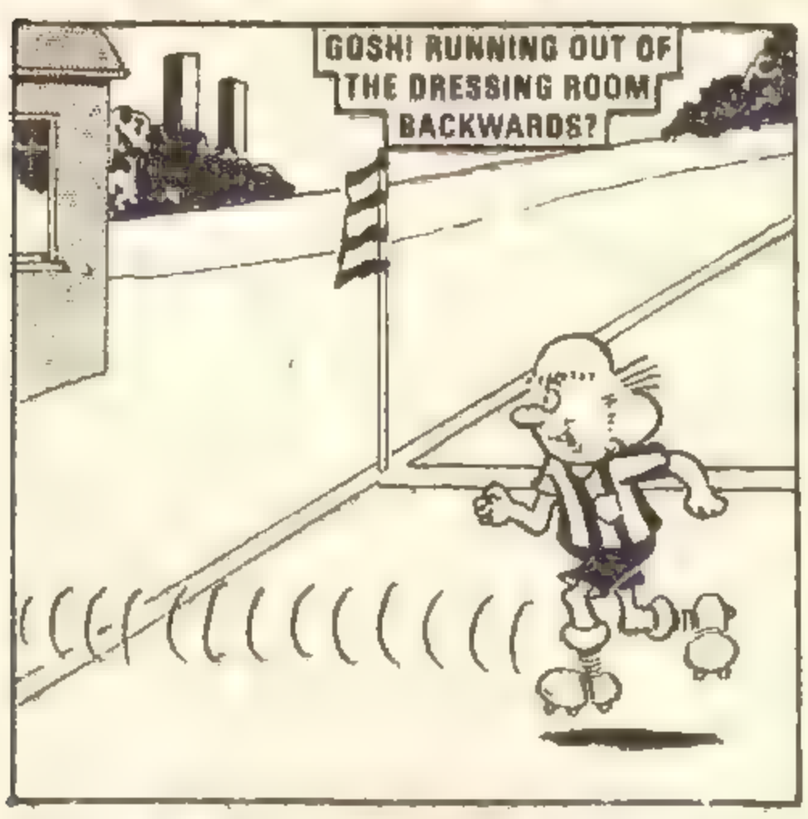

WHAT? "TYRED" ALREADY?
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
I KNEW THESE TYRES WOULD BE USEFUL! THAT TOUGH TEAM WILL FEEL LIKE RE-"TYRING" SOON!
BOUNCE

# BALL BOY


B.B. DRYING HIMSELF—

—THEN HAVING A BATH!

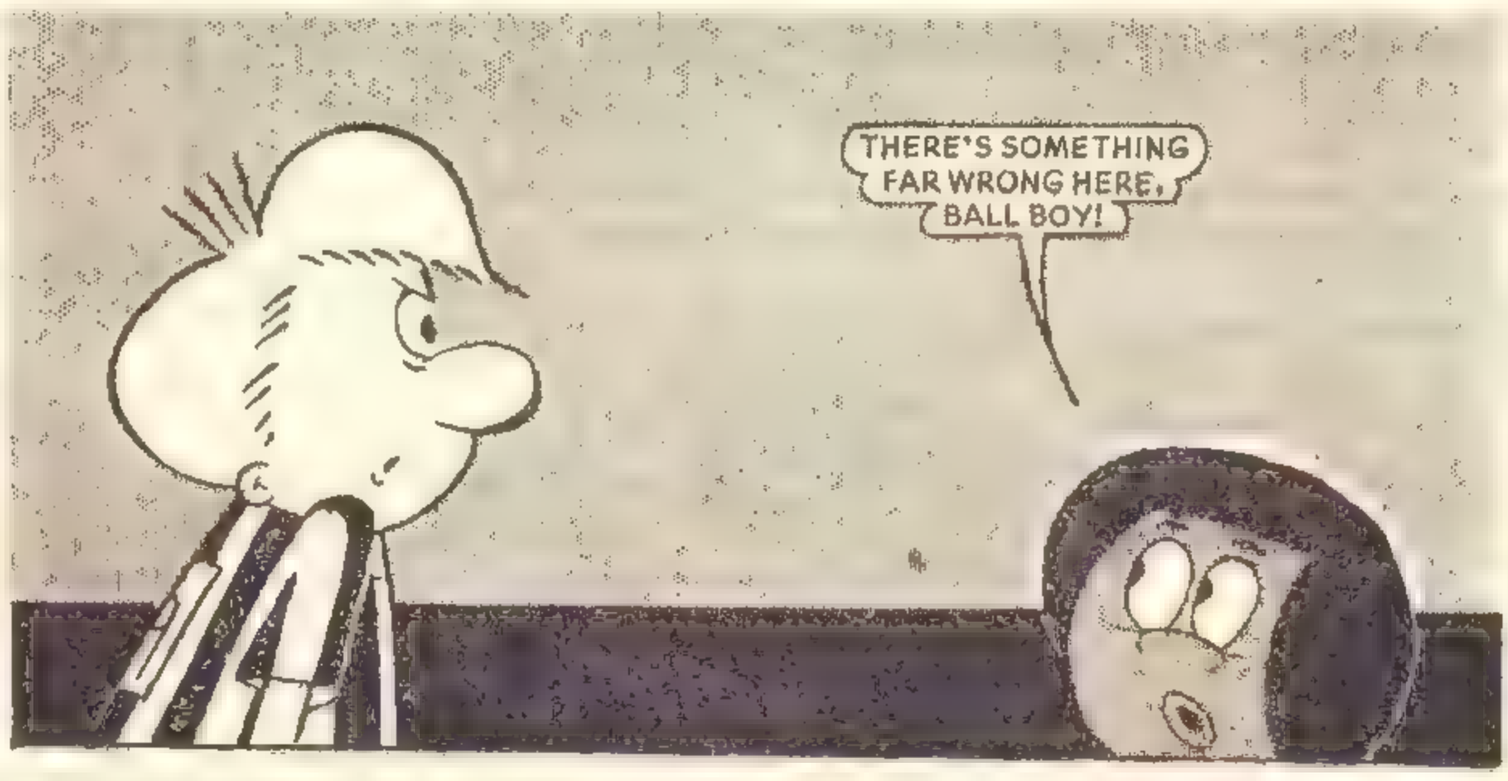

TAKING OFF HIS STRIP!


GOSH! RUNNING OUT OF THE DRESSING ROOM BACKWARDS?

BEING CONGRATULATED ON A FINE GOAL, BUT WHAT GOAL?

WHAT IS GOING ON?

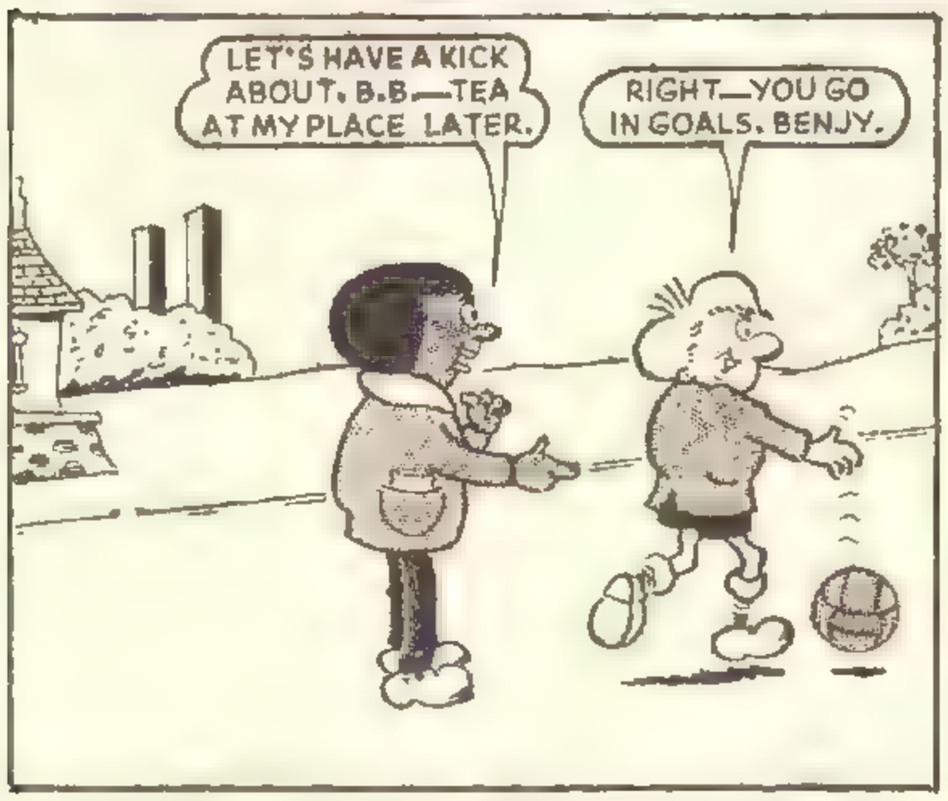
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE KICK-OFF, BUT . . .

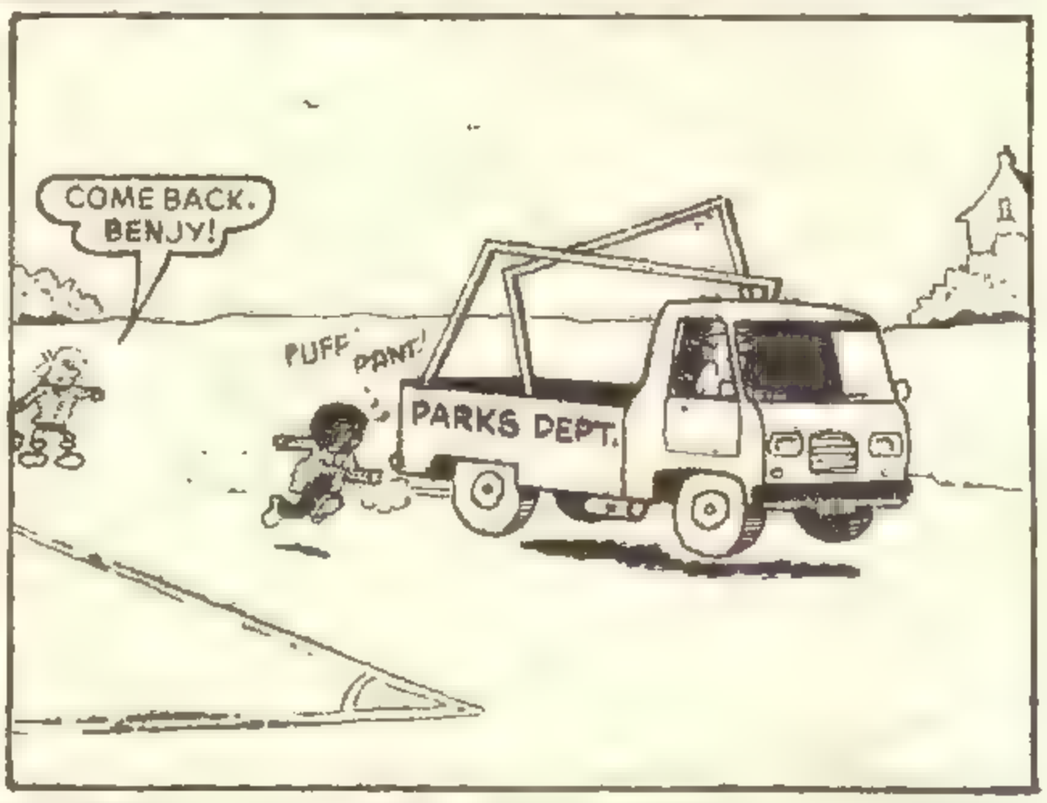

THERE'S SOMETHING FAR WRONG HERE, BALL BOY!

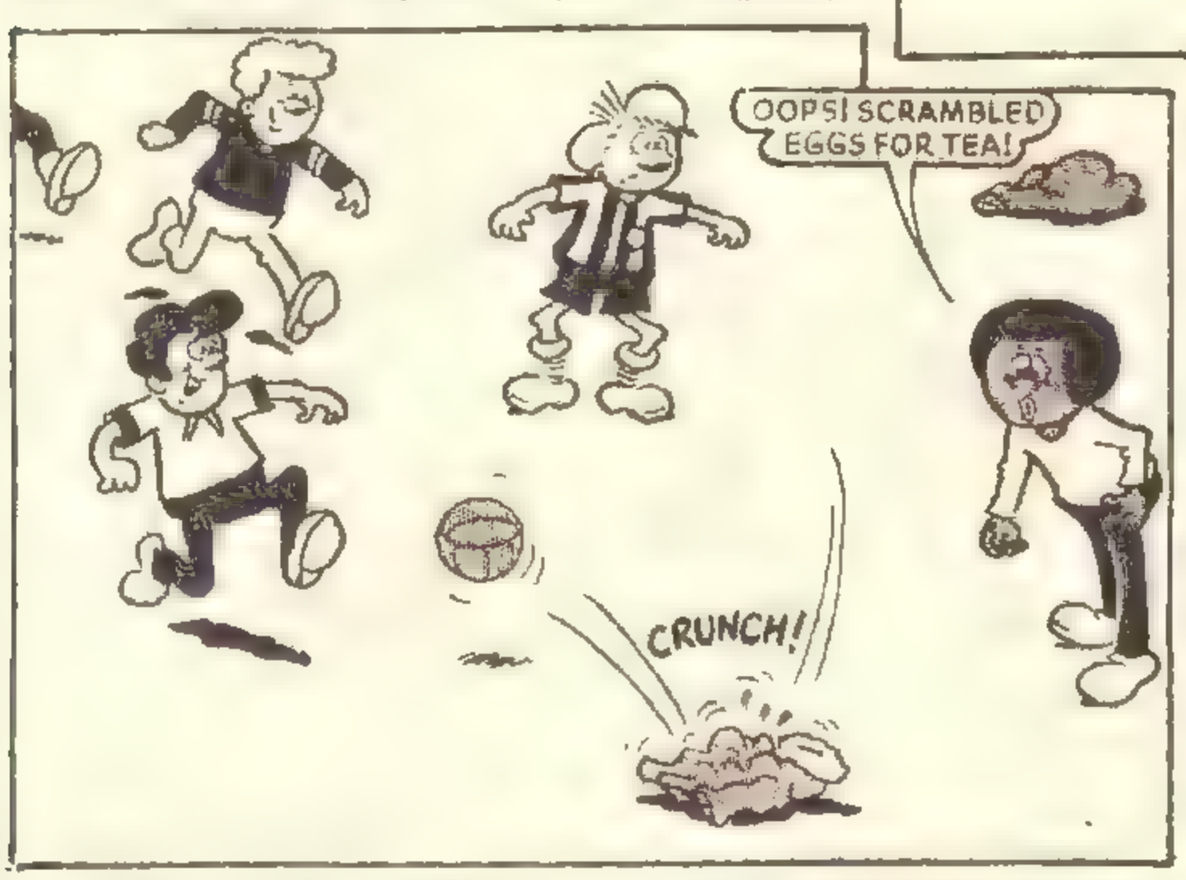
CLICK!
BNO 21.5.83

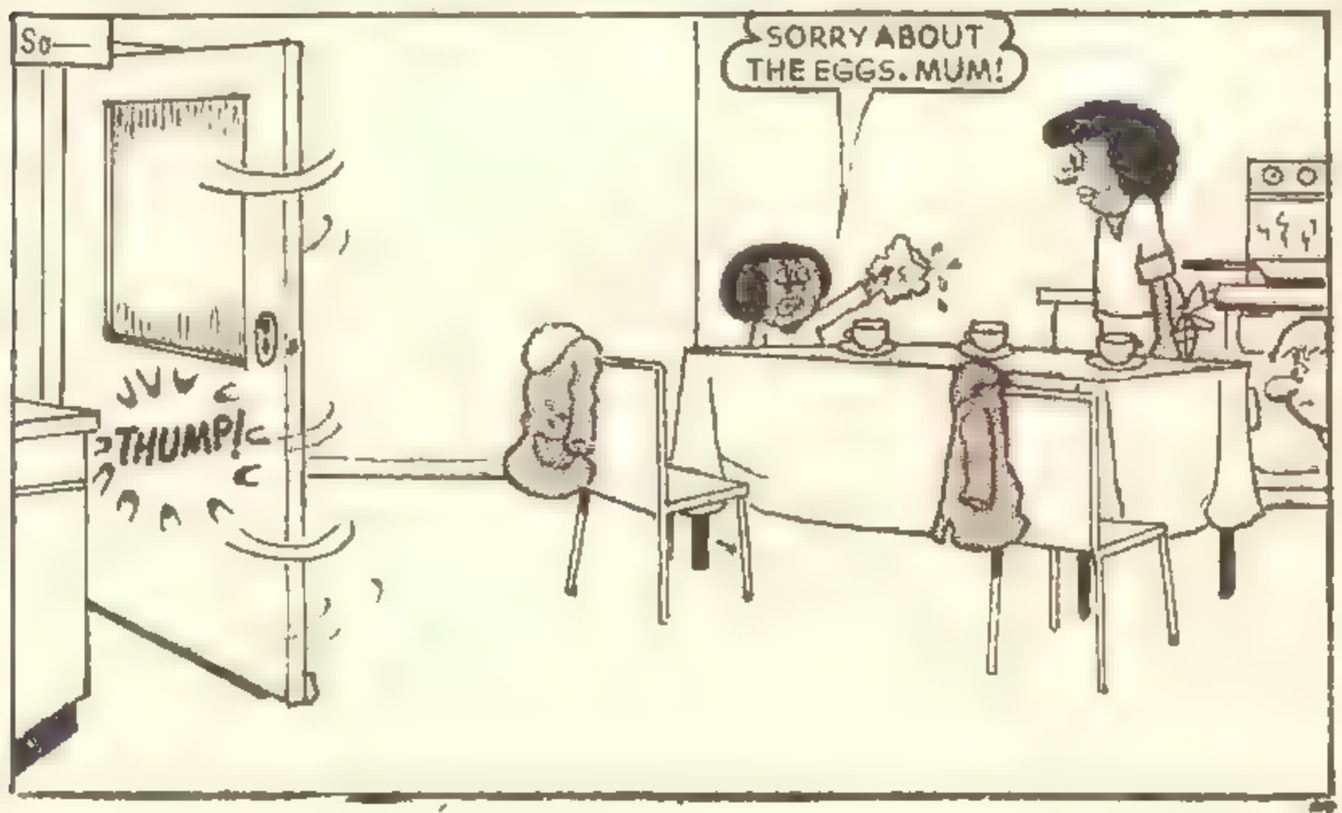
I'VE BEEN SHOWING THE REELS THAT DAD FILMED AT OUR LAST MATCH. BACKWARDS! SORRY, BENJY!

# BALL BOY







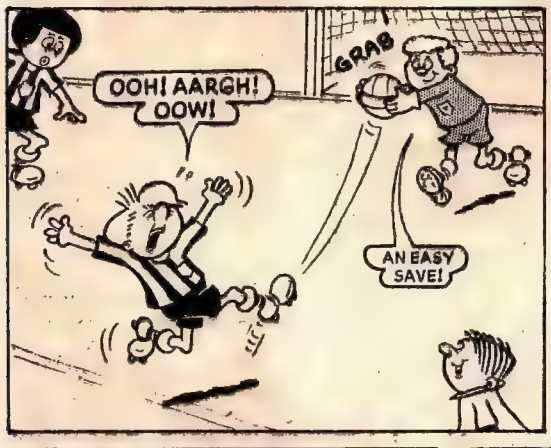


8NO 28.5.83

# BALL BOY

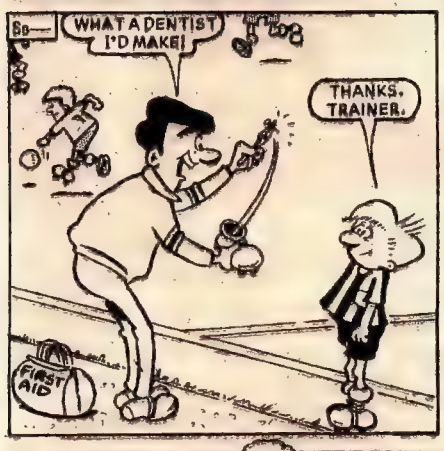
PASS TO ME, BENJY!

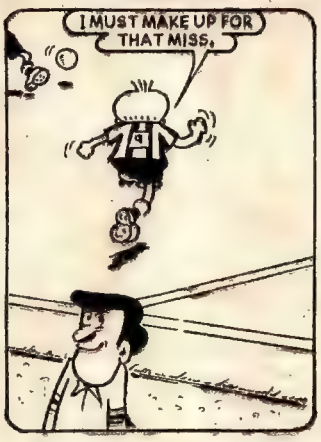
MUST SCORE HERE!

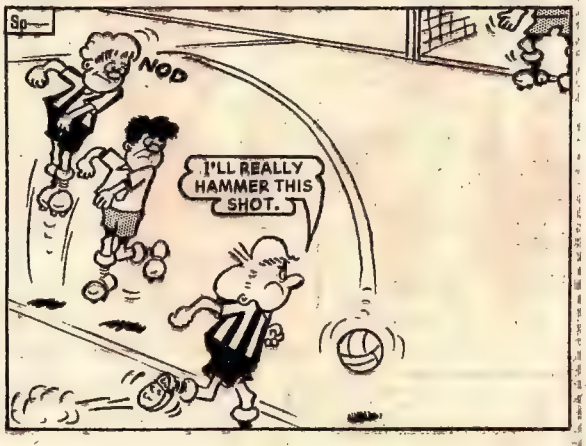

OOH! AARGH! OOW!
GRAB
AN EASY SAVE!

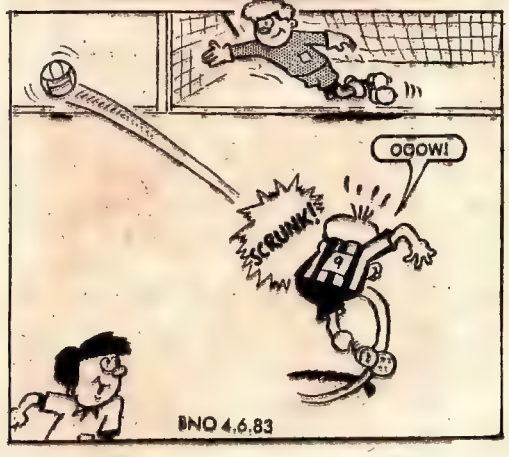
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DANCE AFTER YOU'VE SCORED, B.B.!

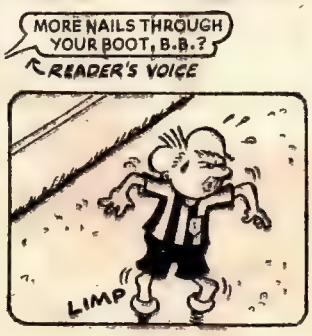
GROAN! A NAIL CAME THROUGH THE INSIDE OF MY BOOT.

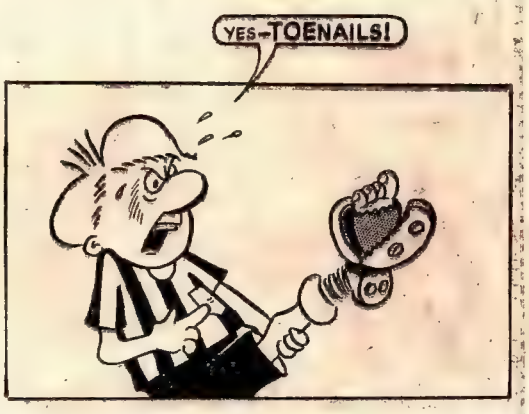

WHAT A DENTIST I'D MAKE!
THANKS, TRAINER.
FIRST AID


I MUST MAKE UP FOR THAT MISS.


NOD
I'LL REALLY HAMMER THIS SHOT.

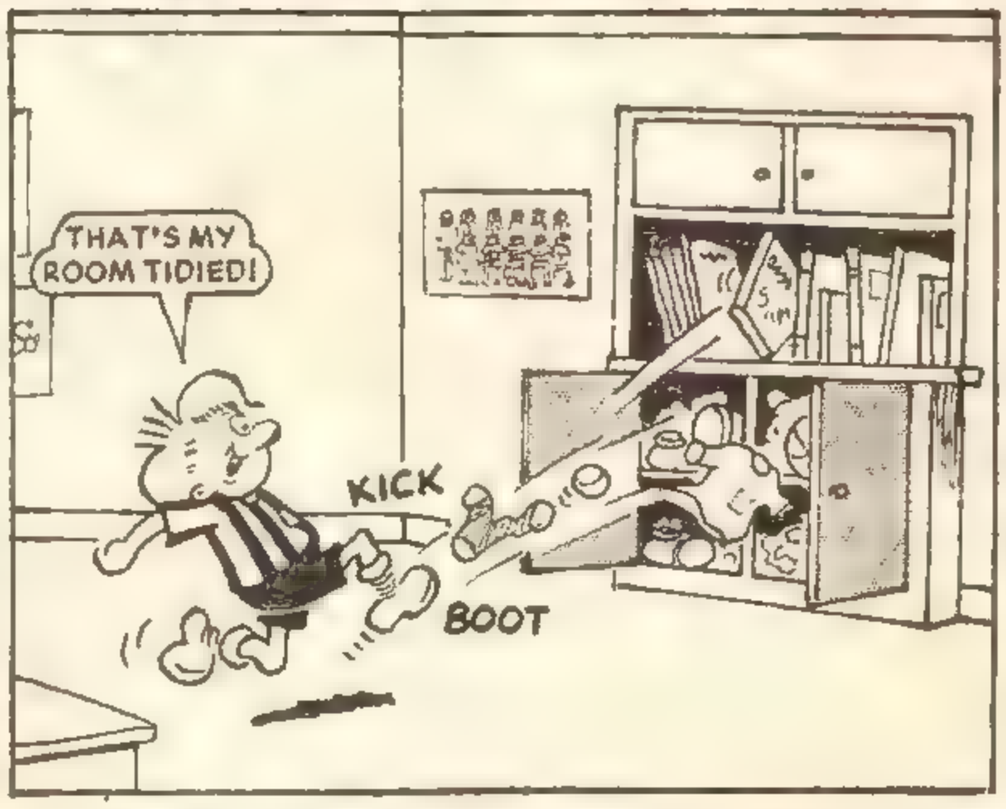

OOOW!
SCRUNK!
BNO 4.6.83


MORE NAILS THROUGH YOUR BOOT, B.B.?
READER'S VOICE
LIMP


YES—TOENAILS!

# BALL BOY

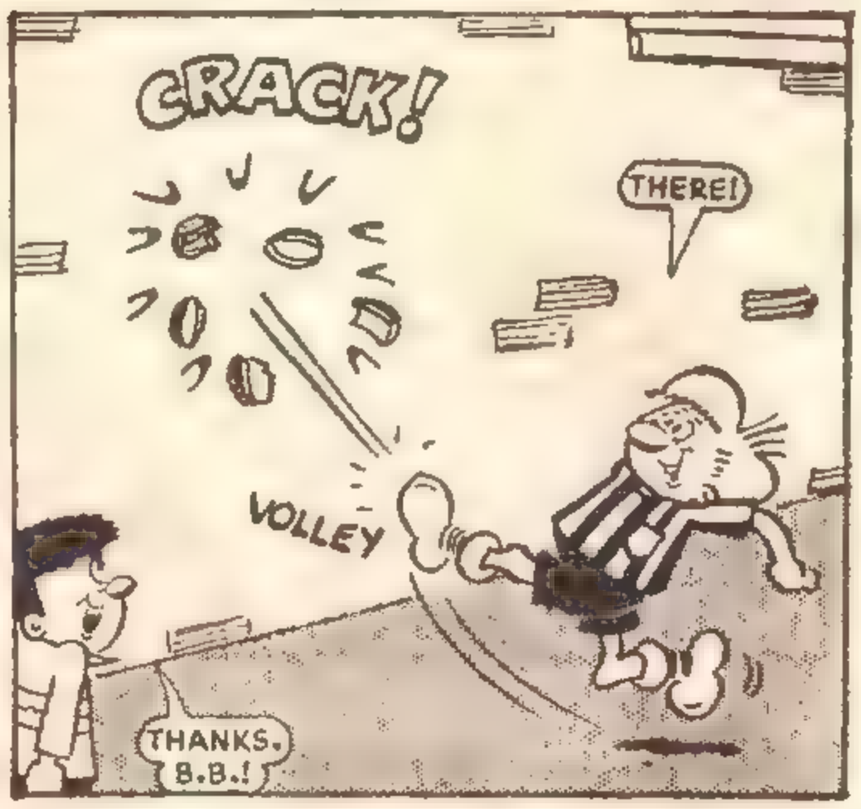
TIDY UP YOUR ROOM, BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR SCHOOL, SON.
UNITED
OK, MUM!

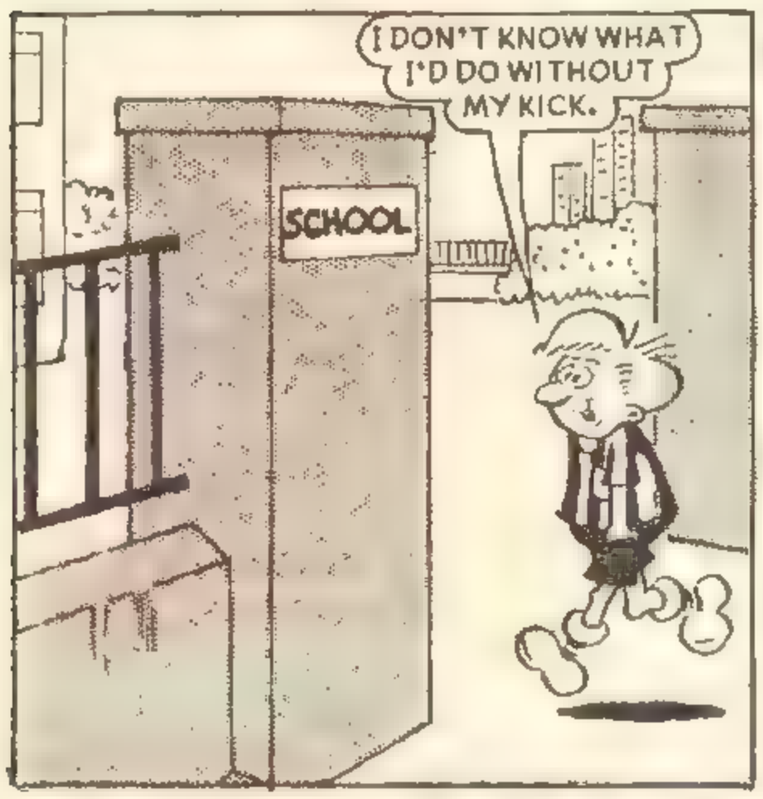

THAT'S MY ROOM TIDIED!
KICK
BOOT

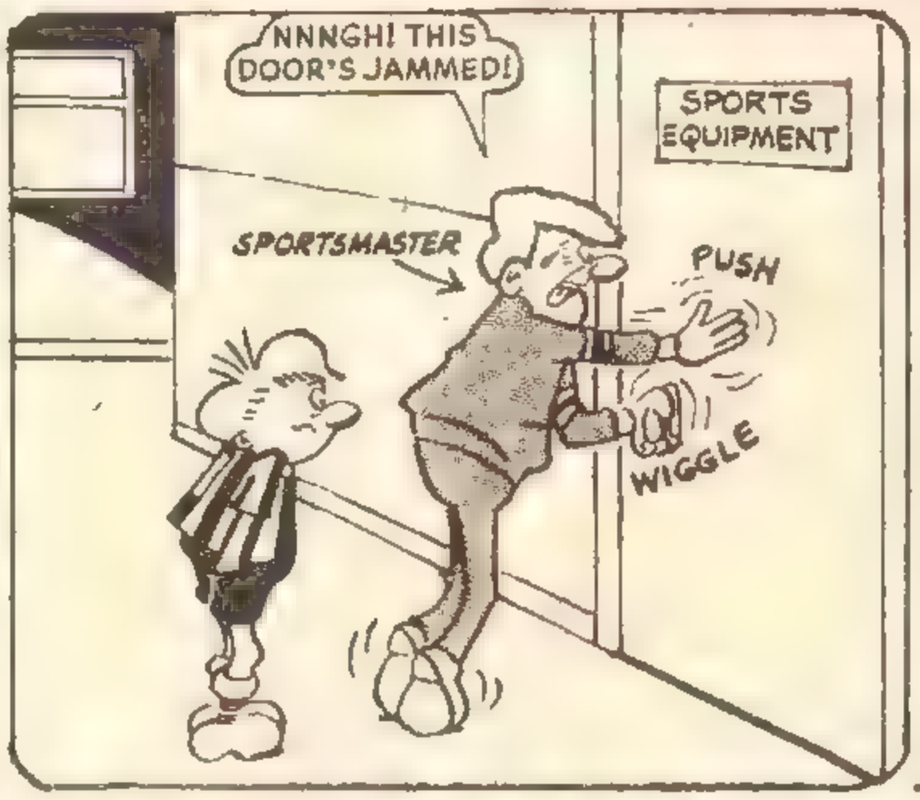
IT'S VERY HANDY HAVING A GOOD KICK.

I WON THIS COCONUT AT THE FAIR, B.B. — CAN'T GET IT CRACKED OPEN.
TOSS IT TO ME, ARCHIE.

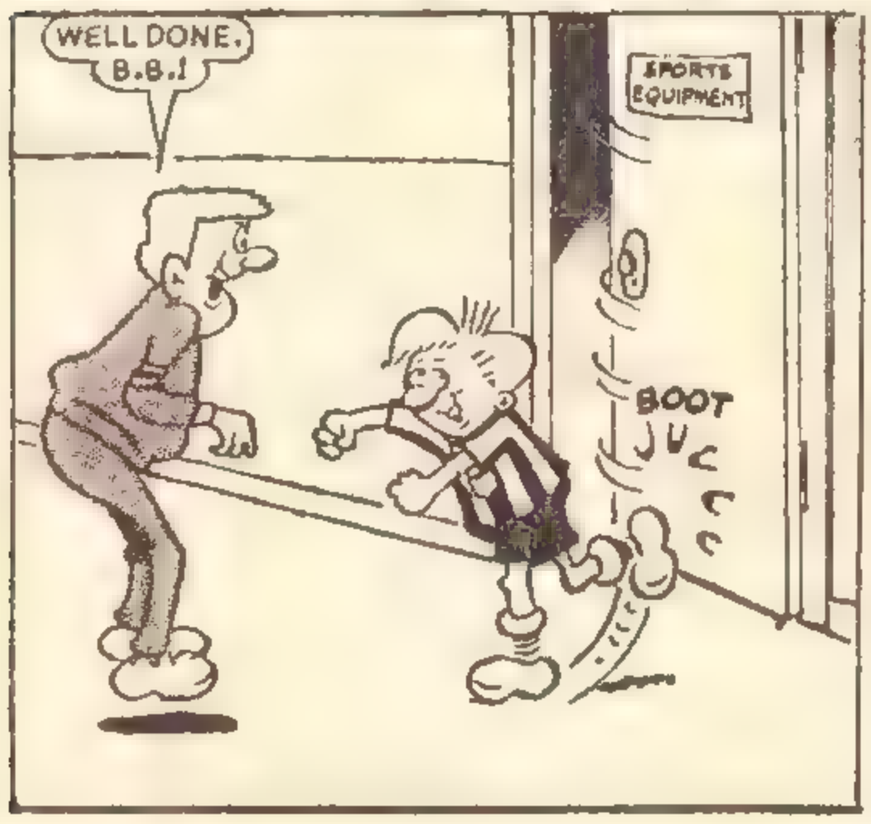
HERE!

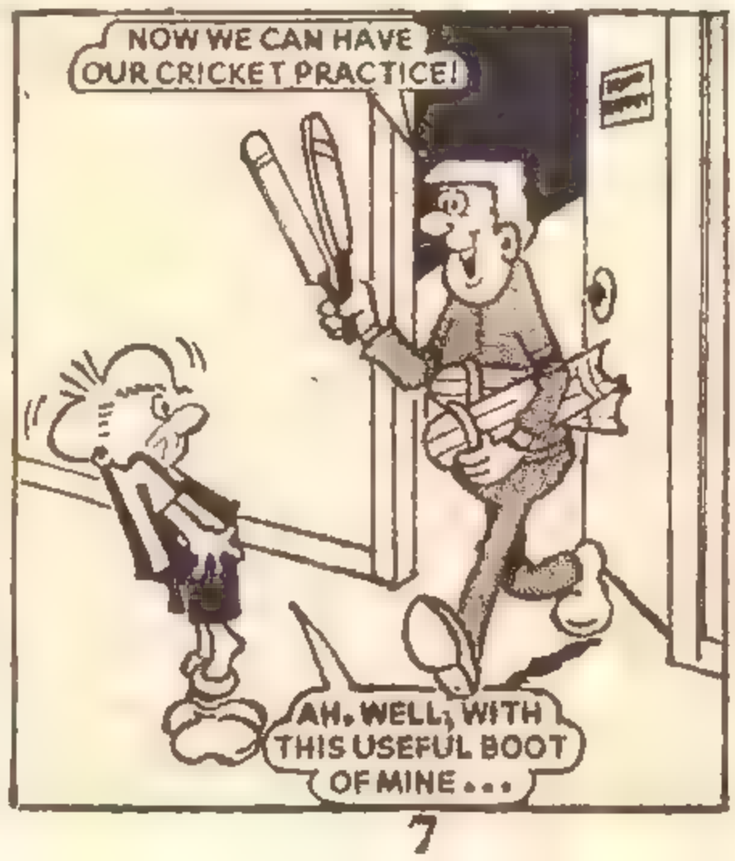

CRACK!
THERE!
VOLLEY
THANKS, B.B.!

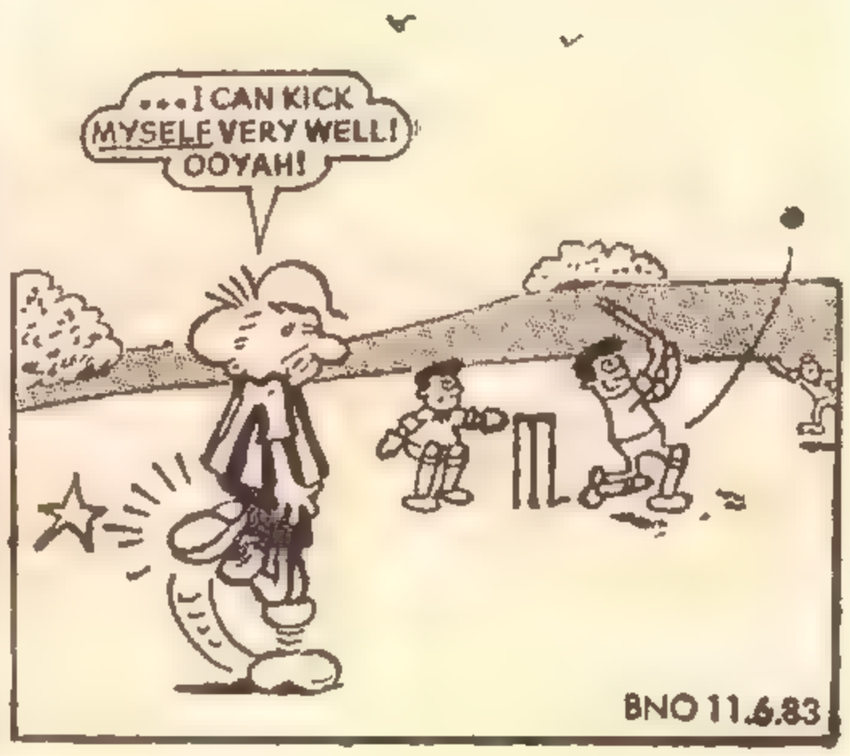

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT MY KICK.
SCHOOL


NNNGH! THIS DOOR'S JAMMED!
SPORTS EQUIPMENT
SPORTSMASTER
PUSH
WIGGLE

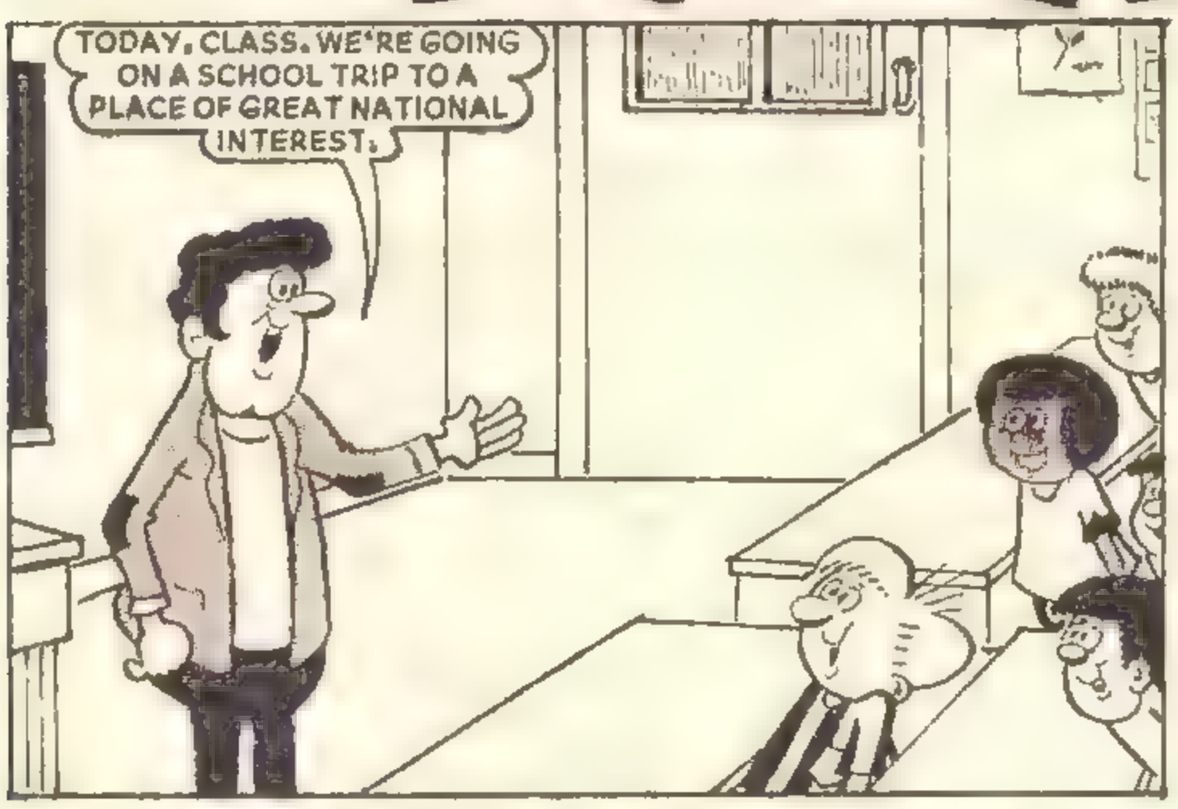
STAND BACK, SIR. JAMMED DOORS ARE NO PROBLEM TO MY KICK.
SPORTS EQUIPMENT


WELL DONE, B.B.!
SPORTS EQUIPMENT
BOOT

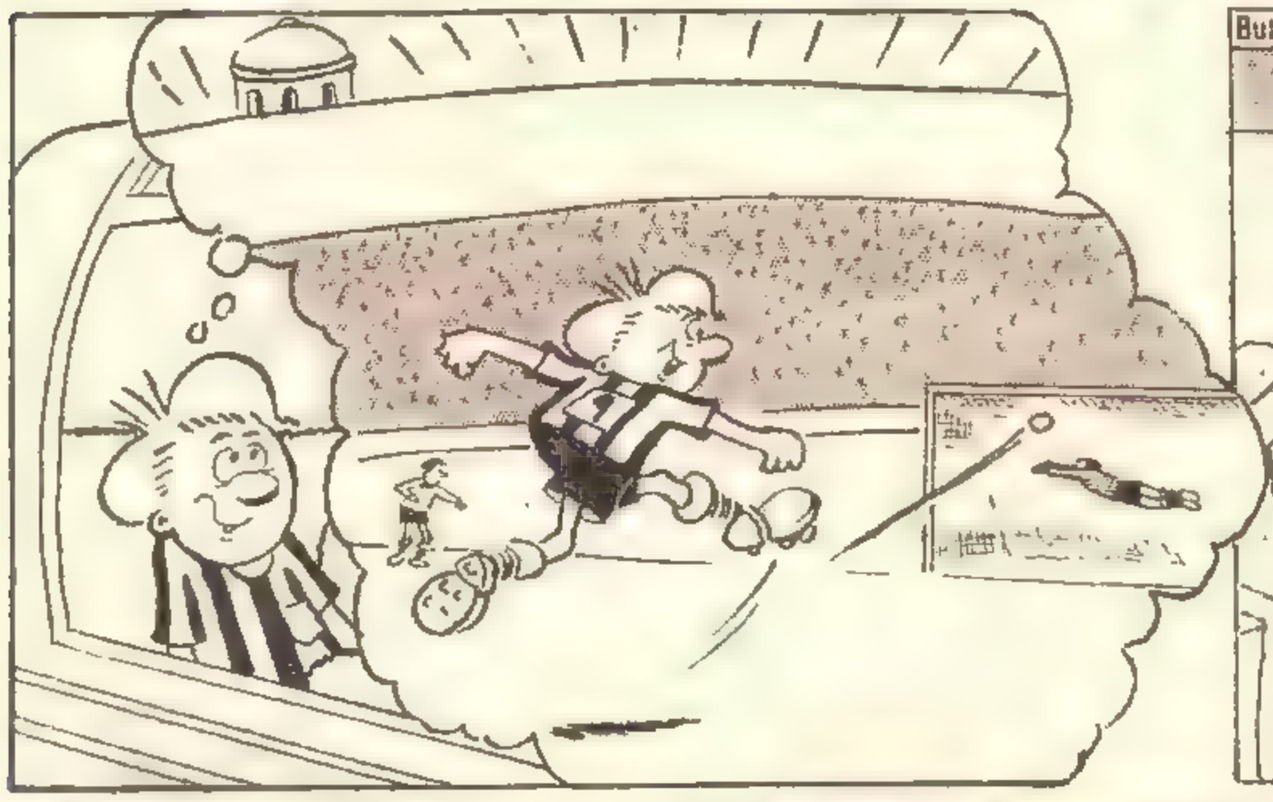

NOW WE CAN HAVE OUR CRICKET PRACTICE!
AH, WELL, WITH THIS USEFUL BOOT OF MINE...


...I CAN KICK MYSELF VERY WELL! OOYAH!
BNO 11.6.83

# BALL BOY


TODAY, CLASS, WE'RE GOING ON A SCHOOL TRIP TO A PLACE OF GREAT NATIONAL INTEREST.

So—
WOW! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO WEMBLEY!



But, later—
THIS ISN'T WEMBLEY!
HERE WE ARE PUPILS.
HUH!

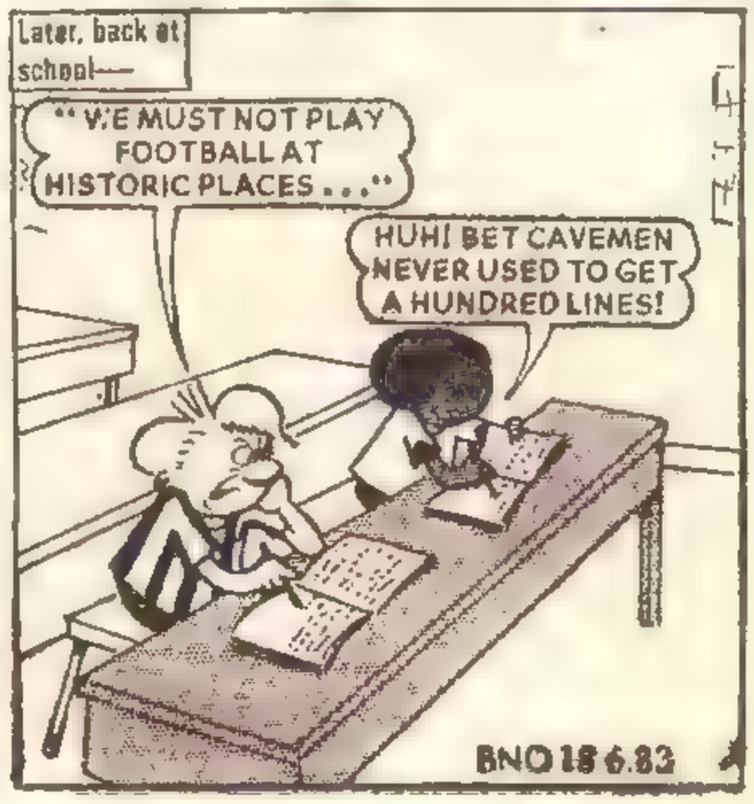
BACK TO THE BUS, BENJY—I'VE AN IDEA!
?

THE DRIVER WON'T MIND IF WE BORROW THESE FURRY SEAT COVERS!

NO-ONE IS SURE WHAT THESE STONES WERE PUT HERE FOR.

WE KNOW!

IT WAS THE FIRST STONE AGE FOOTBALL STADIUM!
SNARL!


Later, back at school—
"WE MUST NOT PLAY FOOTBALL AT HISTORIC PLACES . . ."
HUH! BET CAVEMEN NEVER USED TO GET A HUNDRED LINES!
BNO 18 6.83

# BALL BOY

YOUR JERSEYS ARE WASHED AND DRIED FOR TODAY'S GAME. I SUPPOSE YOU'LL WANT THEM IRONED, TOO?

YES, MUM!

HI, BALL BOY!

HI, BENJY!

RING! RING!

SIGH! I HATE IRONING—HEY! THERE'S THE 'PHONE . . .

Meanwhile—

WE'D BETTER ROLL THE PITCH BEFORE OUR MATCH—IT'S AWFULLY BUMPY.

NNNG! THE ROLLER WON'T MOVE!

NO WONDER—THERE'S A WEDGE HOLDING IT BACK!

So—

SOUNDS LIKE IT COULD DO WITH SOME OIL, B.B.!

I'LL GET SOME FROM THE CLUBHOUSE.

CREAK!

CREAK!

So—

THAT SHOULD DO IT.

SQUIRT! SQUIRT!

But—

AW, NO! YOU GOT OIL ON THE HANDLE! I CAN'T HOLD IT, B.B.!

WHOOPS! NEITHER CAN I!

ROLL-L

GASP! IT'S ROLLING TOWARDS YOUR HOUSE, B.B.!

WAAH! WE DON'T NEED A NEW BACK DOOR!

RUMBLE!

FLATTEN

PHEW! IT'S STOPPED JUST SHORT OF THE HOUSE! LET'S GET THAT ROLLER OUT OF HERE!

Then—

GASP! THE JERSEYS ARE NEATLY IRONED—BUT HOW?

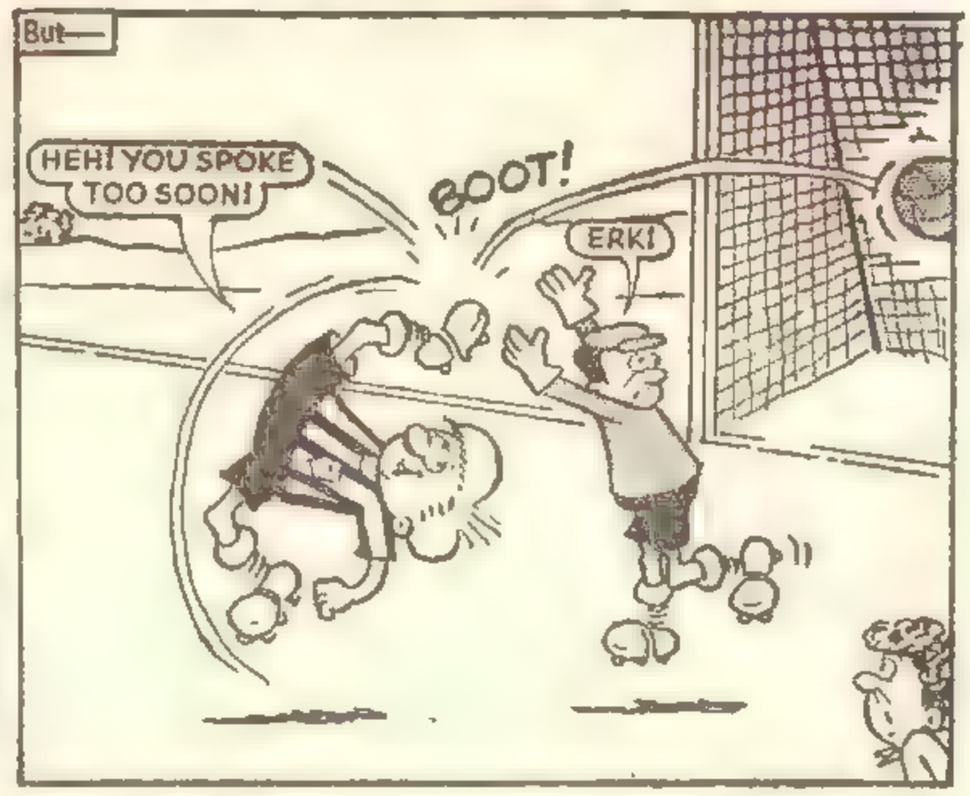
ER—WE'D BEST NOT TELL HER, EH, READERS?

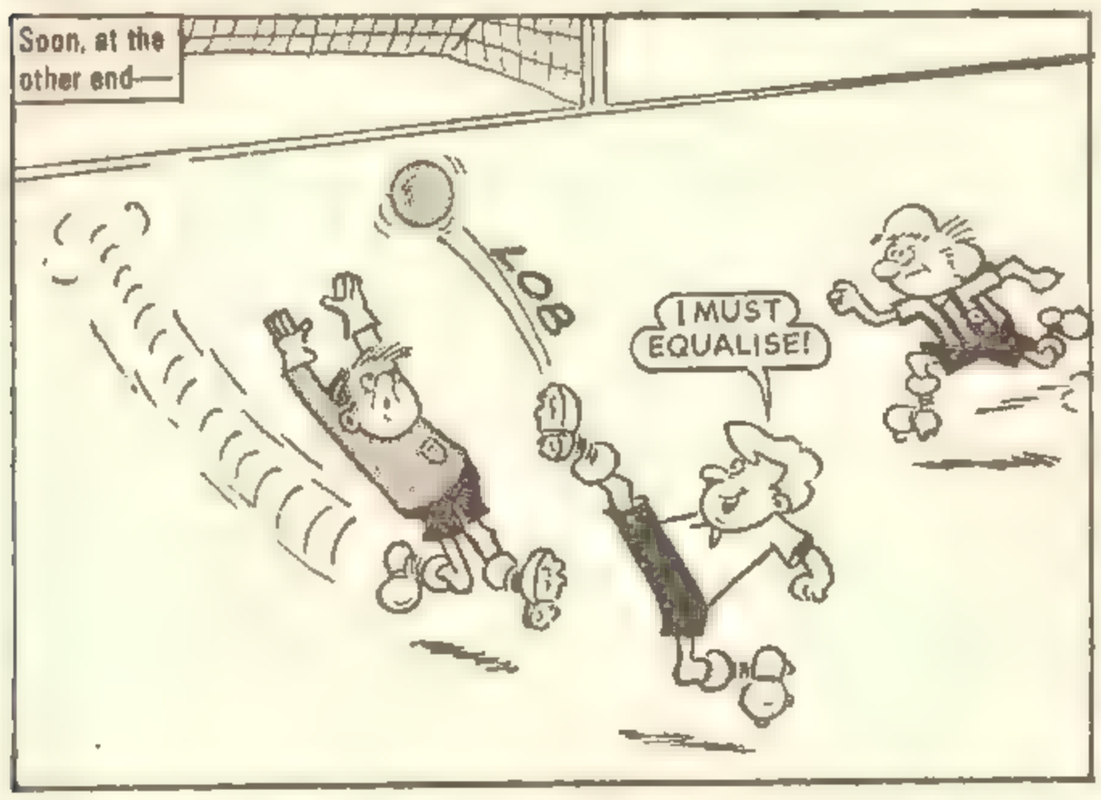
BNO 25.6.83

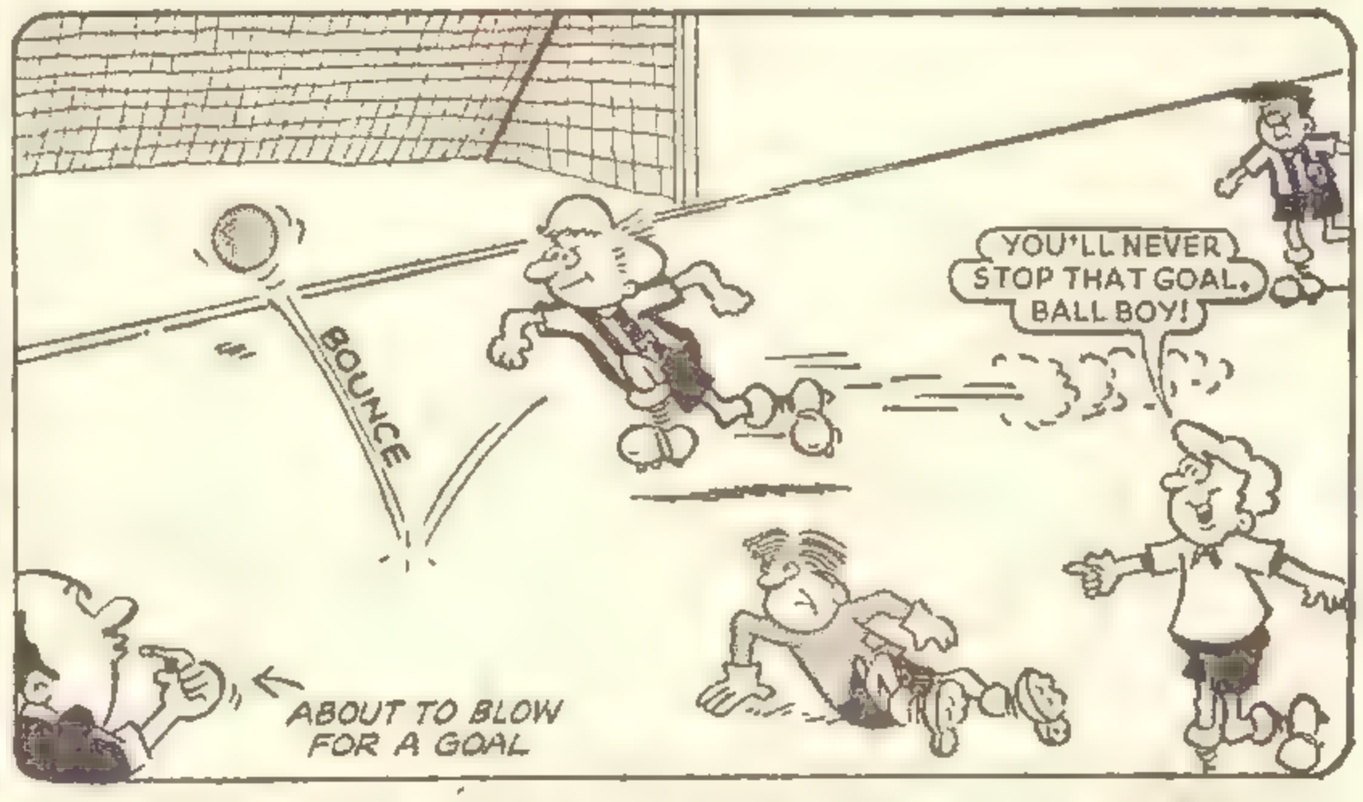
# BALL BOY

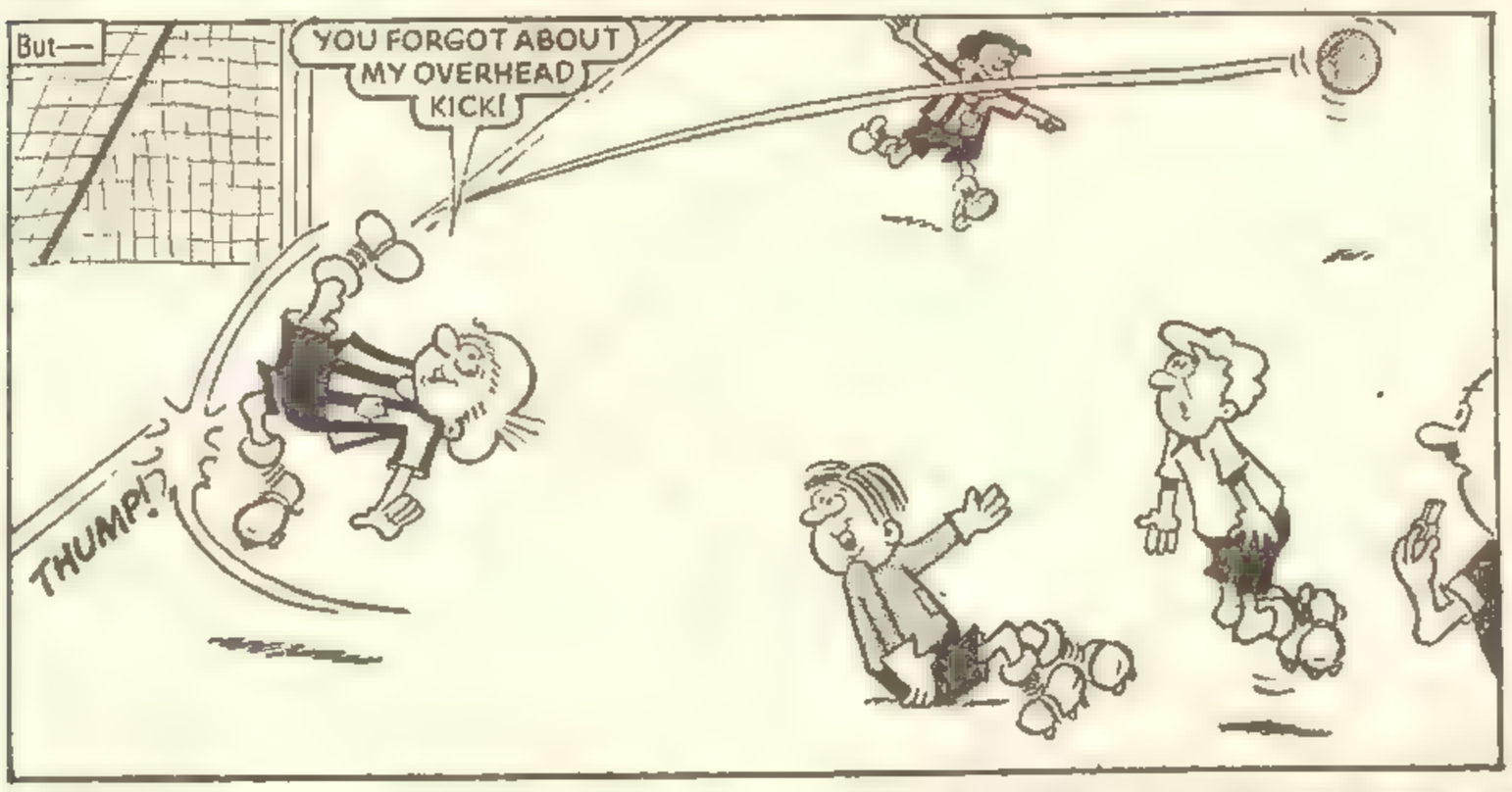
I'M GOING TO TRY A NEW KIND OF KICK TODAY.
DRESSING ROOMS

And so—
THAT'S SAFE!

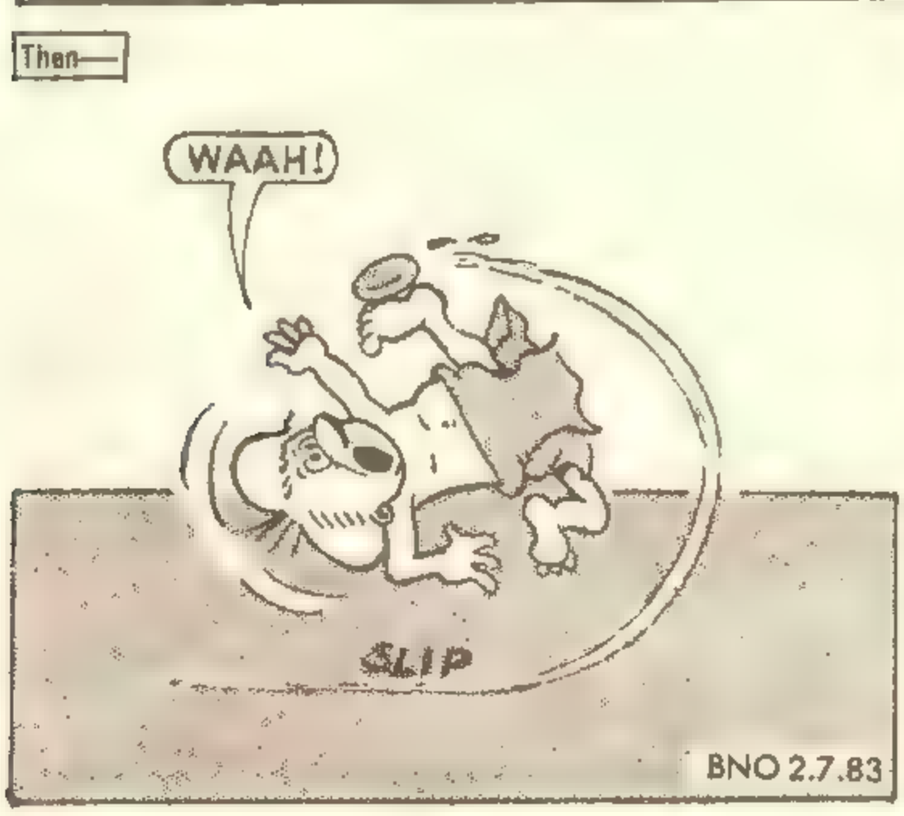

But—
HEH! YOU SPOKE TOO SOON!
BOOT!
ERK!

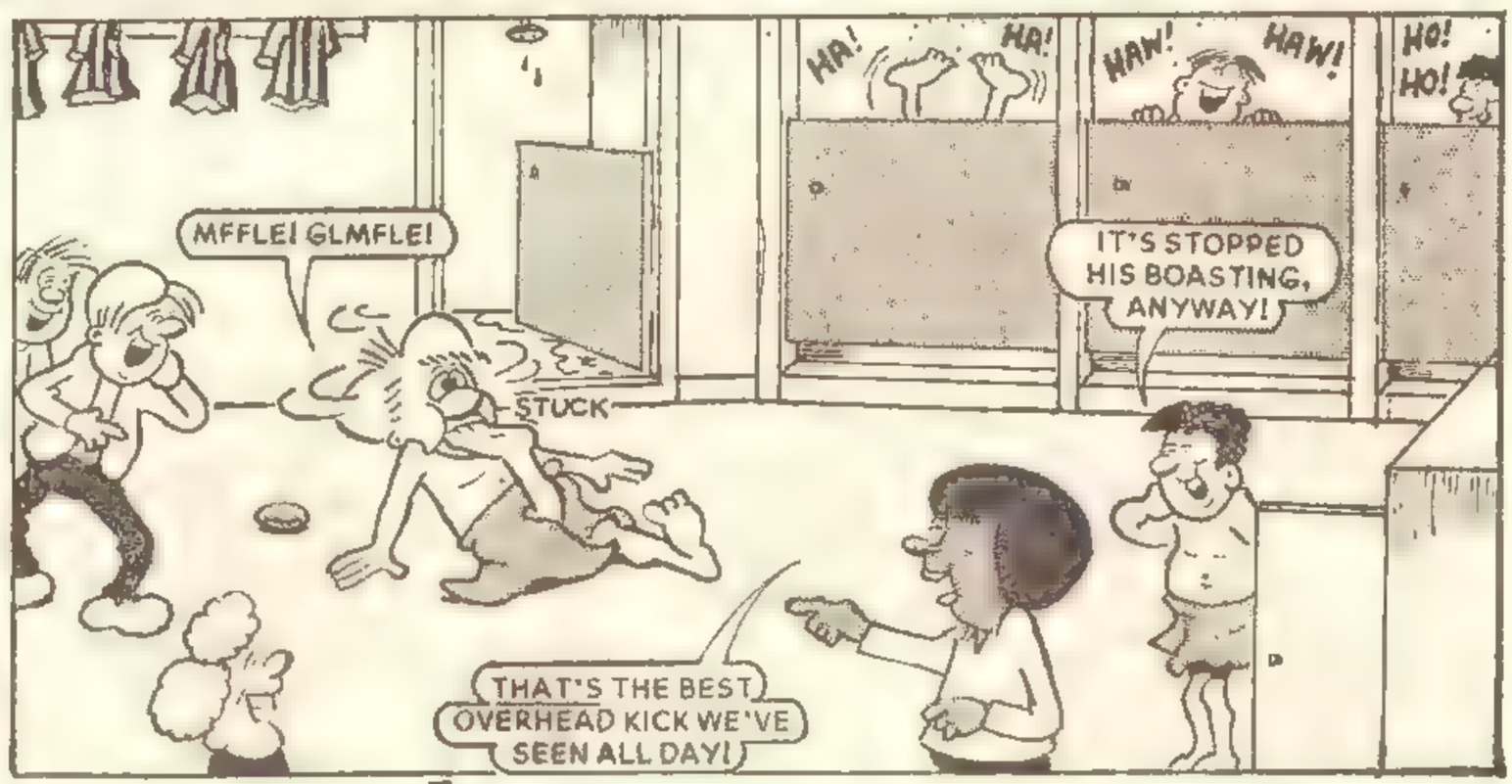

Soon, at the other end—
LOB
I MUST EQUALISE!


BOUNCE
YOU'LL NEVER STOP THAT GOAL, BALL BOY!
ABOUT TO BLOW FOR A GOAL


But—
YOU FORGOT ABOUT MY OVERHEAD KICK!
THUMP!

After the game—
BOAST! I'M THE BEST OVERHEAD KICKER IN TOWN!
SOAP


Then—
WAAH!
SLIP
BNO 2.7.83

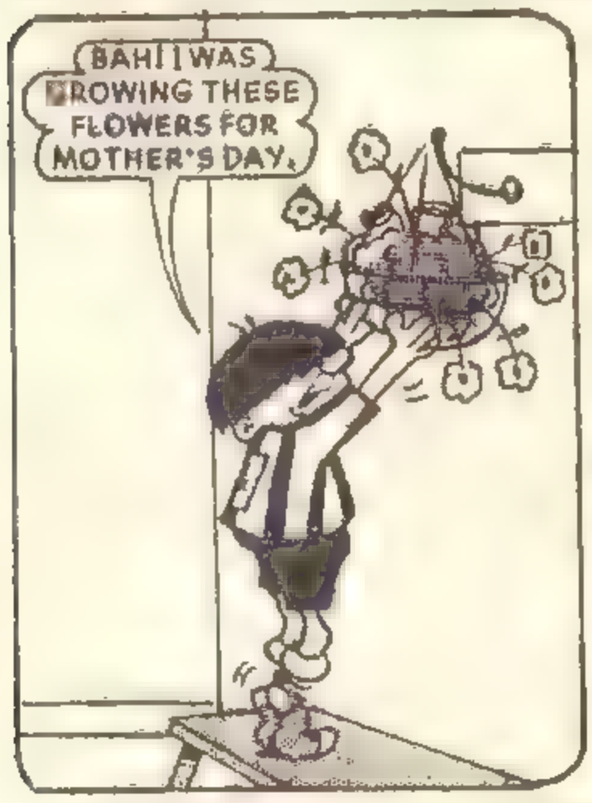

HA! HA!
HAW! HAW!
HO! HO!
MFFLE! GLMFLE!
STUCK
IT'S STOPPED HIS BOASTING, ANYWAY!
THAT'S THE BEST OVERHEAD KICK WE'VE SEEN ALL DAY!

# BALL BOY

I'M HERE TO INSPECT YOUR BOOTS, AND MAKE SURE YOUR STUDS ARE SAFE.

YOU FIRST.

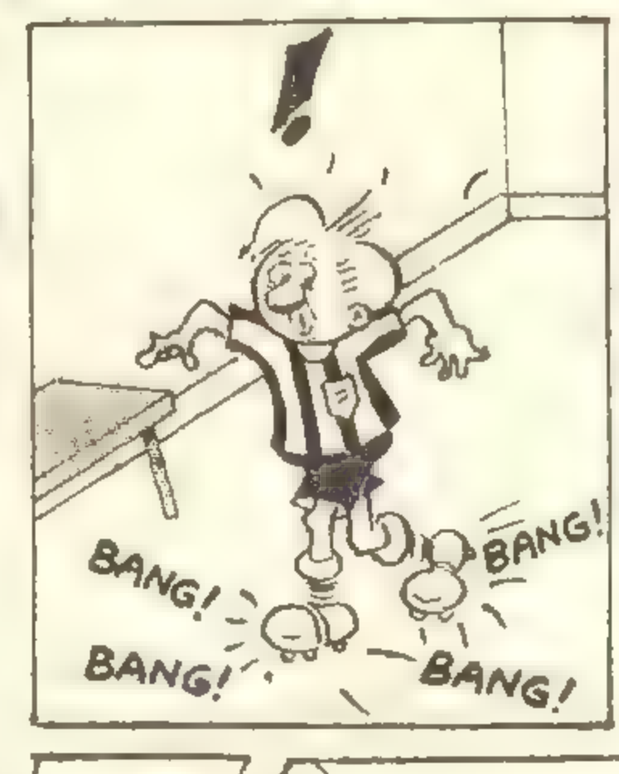
GASP! YOUR BOOTS ARE SO DIRTY. YOU'VE GOT PLANTS GROWING ON THEM!


BAH! I WAS GROWING THESE FLOWERS FOR MOTHER'S DAY.

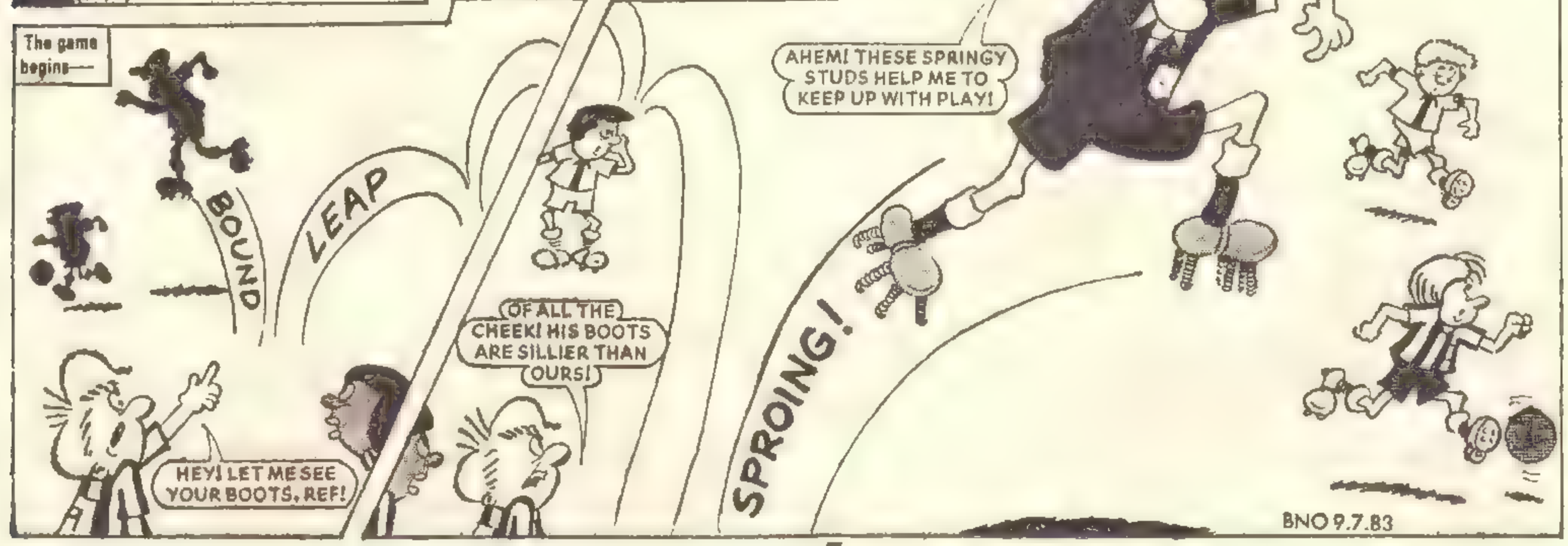
THAT BOOT'S LAUGHING AT ME!

SORRY, REF! STOP IT, BOOT!
SNAP!

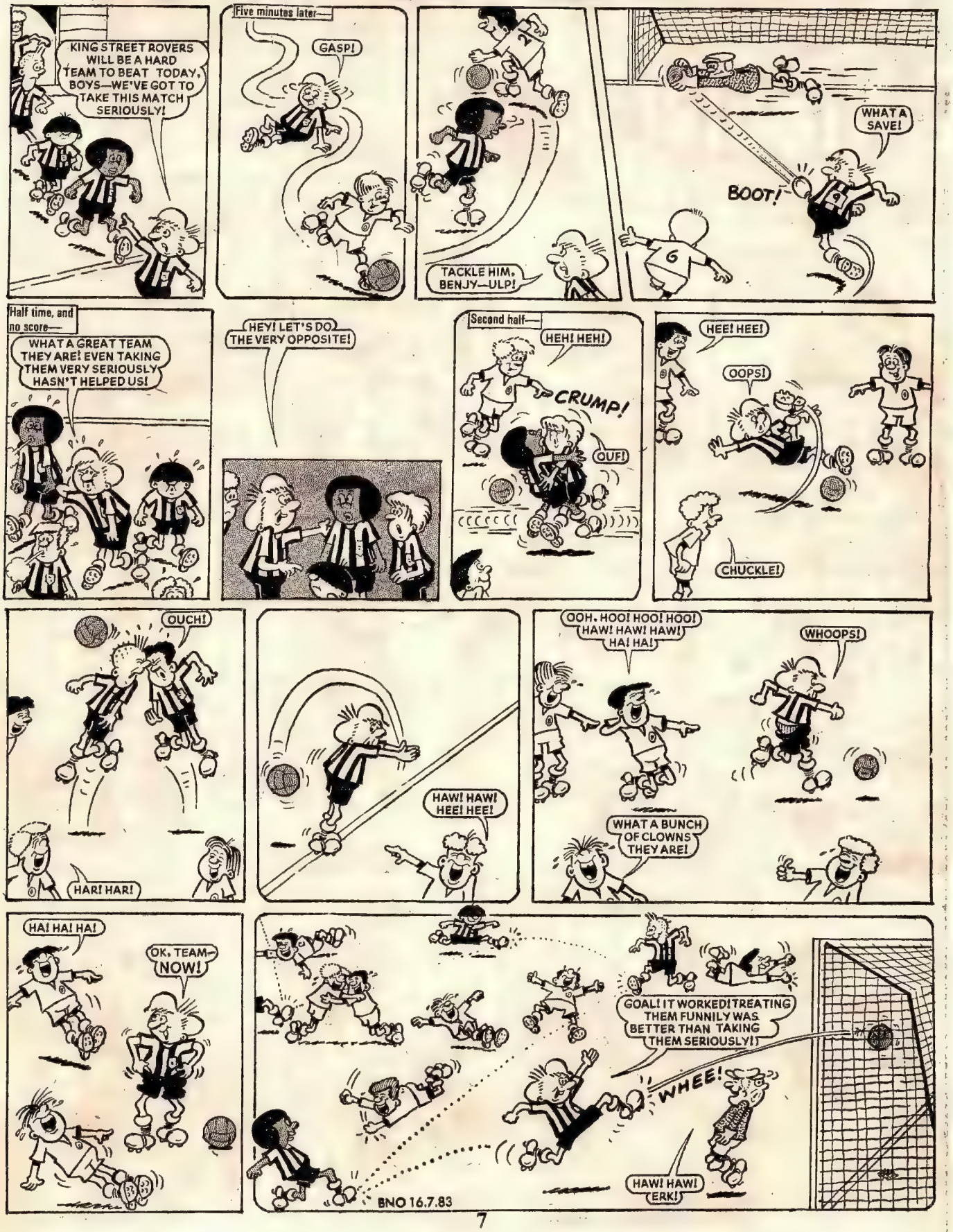
CONFIDENT
LET'S HOPE YOU'RE A BIT MORE SENSIBLE, BALL BOY—LET ME SEE IF YOUR BOOTS ARE OK.


!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!

SOME JOKER PUT CAPS ON MY STUDS!
SNARL!
BANG!
BANG!


The game begins—
BOUND
LEAP
HEY! LET ME SEE YOUR BOOTS, REF!
OF ALL THE CHEEK! HIS BOOTS ARE SILLIER THAN OURS!
SPROING!
AHEM! THESE SPRINGY STUDS HELP ME TO KEEP UP WITH PLAY!
BNO 9.7.83

# BALL BOY


KING STREET ROVERS WILL BE A HARD TEAM TO BEAT TODAY, BOYS—WE'VE GOT TO TAKE THIS MATCH SERIOUSLY!
Five minutes later—
GASP!
TACKLE HIM, BENJY—ULP!
WHAT A SAVE!
BOOT!
Half time, and no score—
WHAT A GREAT TEAM THEY ARE! EVEN TAKING THEM VERY SERIOUSLY HASN'T HELPED US!
HEY! LET'S DO THE VERY OPPOSITE!
Second half—
HEH! HEH!
CRUMP!
OUF!
HEE! HEE!
OOPS!
CHUCKLE!
OUCH!
HAR! HAR!
HAW! HAW! HEE! HEE!
OOH, HOO! HOO! HOO! HAW! HAW! HAW! HA! HA!
WHOOPS!
WHAT A BUNCH OF CLOWNS THEY ARE!
HA! HA! HA!
OK, TEAM—NOW!
GOAL! IT WORKED! TREATING THEM FUNNILY WAS BETTER THAN TAKING THEM SERIOUSLY!!
WHEE!
HAW! HAW! ERK!
BNO 16.7.83

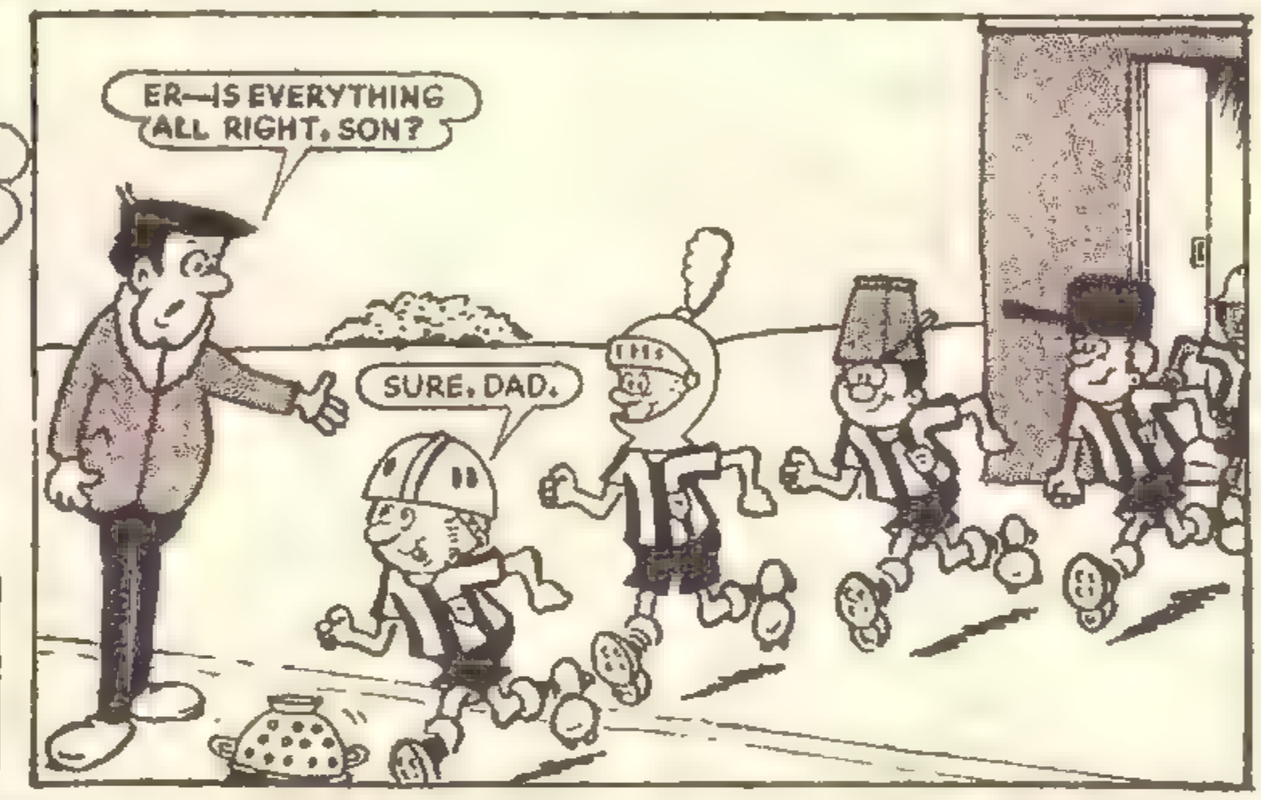
# BALL BOY

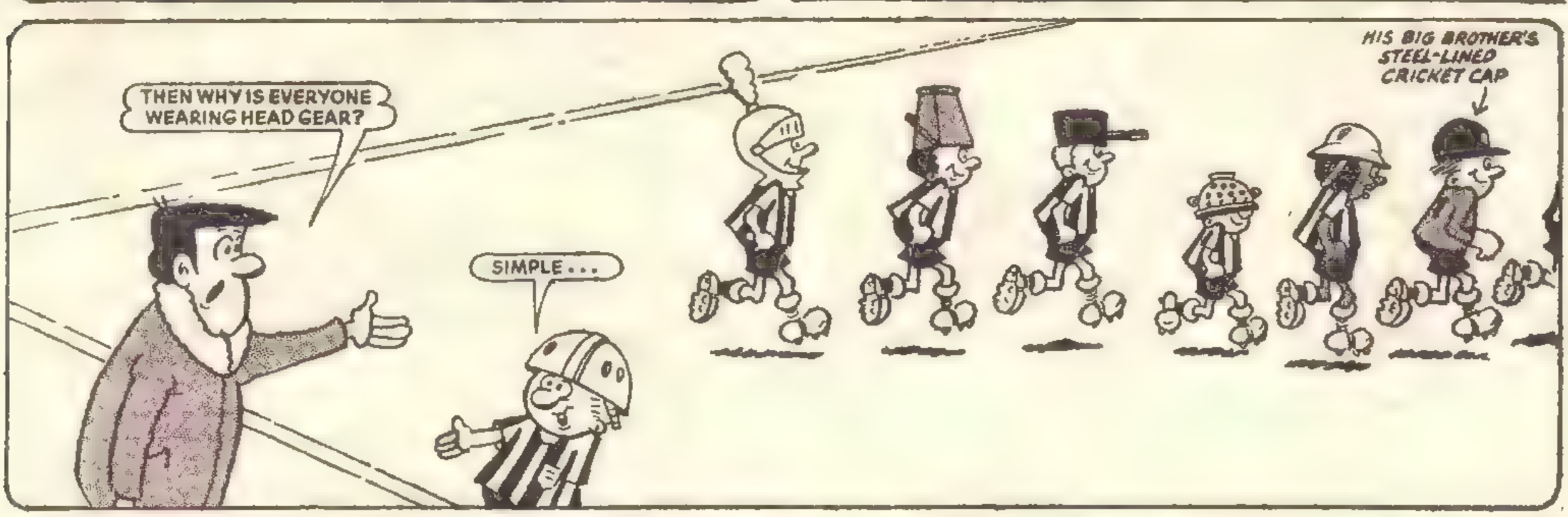
I'M OFF TO PLAY FOOTBALL NOW, DAD.
GOOD LUCK, SON.

WAIT A MINUTE? WHY'S HE WEARING A SKATE-BOARDING HELMET TO PLAY FOOTBALL?

I'M OFF TO WATCH THIS MATCH!

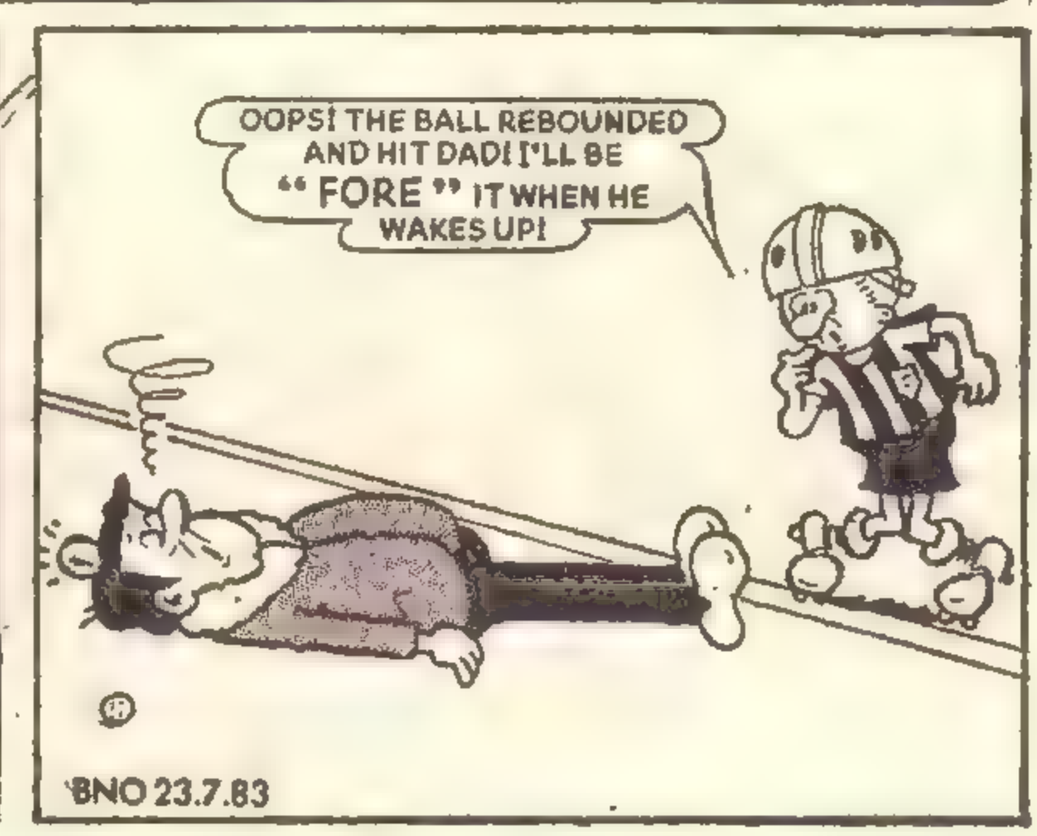
Meanwhile—
RIGHT—HAS EVERYONE COME PREPARED?
GRANDAD LOANED ME HIS OLD HELMET.
I'VE GOT MY MUM'S COLLANDER.
MY UNCLE SID WORKS IN A MUSEUM—HE MUST'VE THOUGHT THIS WAS A "KNIGHT" MATCH! HEHI


ER—IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, SON?
SURE, DAD.


THEN WHY IS EVERYONE WEARING HEAD GEAR?
SIMPLE...
HIS BIG BROTHER'S STEEL-LINED CRICKET CAP

WE'RE PLAYING NEXT TO THE GOLF COURSE.
SO WHAT?

Just then—
SEE, DAD? I NEVER FELT A THING!
BONK!
WHEE!


OOPS! THE BALL REBOUNDED AND HIT DAD! I'LL BE "FORE" IT WHEN HE WAKES UP!
BNO 23.7.83

# BALL BOY

The Boys' Cup Final . . .

FINAL WHISTLE!
YIPPEE! WE'VE WON THE CUP!
EASIEST GAME YET—WE WON 12-0!

I'LL RAISE IT HIGH TO SHOW TO OUR FANS—ER—I MEAN, FAN!
THE FAN →

WE ARE THE CHAMP!—OUCH!
CLONK!
YOWL!
CLUNK!

GROAN!
I'LL PICK IT UP.
OOOH!
BEND
BEND

SQUEAL!
CRACK!
EEK!

WE'LL PUT FIZZY POP IN THE CUP TO CELEBRATE.
SHAKE

BONK!
YOWP!
OOPS!
LET'S GET INTO THE DRESSING ROOM—YOU ALL NEED FIRST AID.

SOON HAVE YOU FIXED UP.
HEY, DIMMY . . .

CRUNK!
BASH! BIFF! BONK!
DONK!
. . . THE SCREWS ARE LOOSE! TOO LATE!

MOAN!
GROAN!
GROAN!
MOAN!
EH?
B B'S DAD

LOOKS LIKE IT WAS A VERY ROUGH CUP FINAL, BOYS.
ROUGH? NOT IN THE SLIGHTEST!

BNO 30.7.83

# BALL BOY

At the local hospital—

OH, NO! IT'S TEN TO FIVE!

OUT PATIENTS

HERE THEY COME— JUST LIKE EVERY WEEK!

SURGERY

I NEED STITCHES, DOC.

WHAT'S WRONG?

I RIPPED MY JERSEY SAVING A PENALTY!

BAH! BRING ME THE NEEDLE AND THREAD, NURSE.

TAP! TAP!

NEXT!

I NEED OXYGEN, DOCTOR.

THE BALL'S FLAT!

HUH!

Next—

IT'S MY TONGUE, DOCTOR.

DID YOU BITE IT?

NO—I PULLED IT OUT!

FROM HIS BOOT

AARGH! MORE STITCHES!

Then—

SURGERY

I'VE STUBBED MY TOE, DOCTOR.

WH-WHAT?

LIMP

YIPPEE!

BLUSH

YAHOO! A REAL INJURY! THREE CHEERS FOR BALLBOY!

BNO 6.8.83

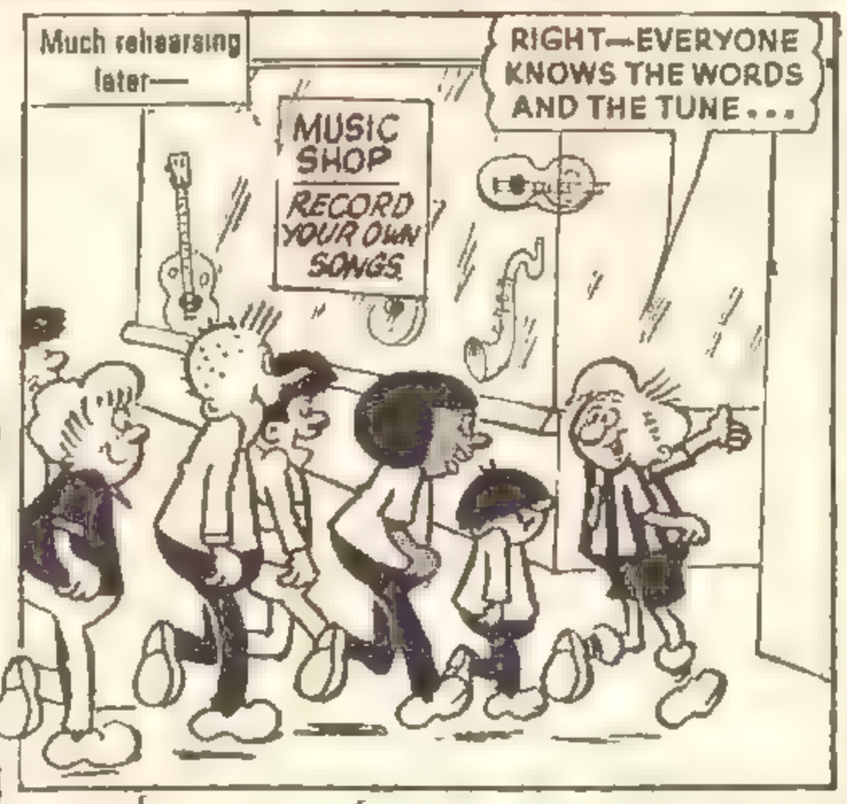
# BALL BOY

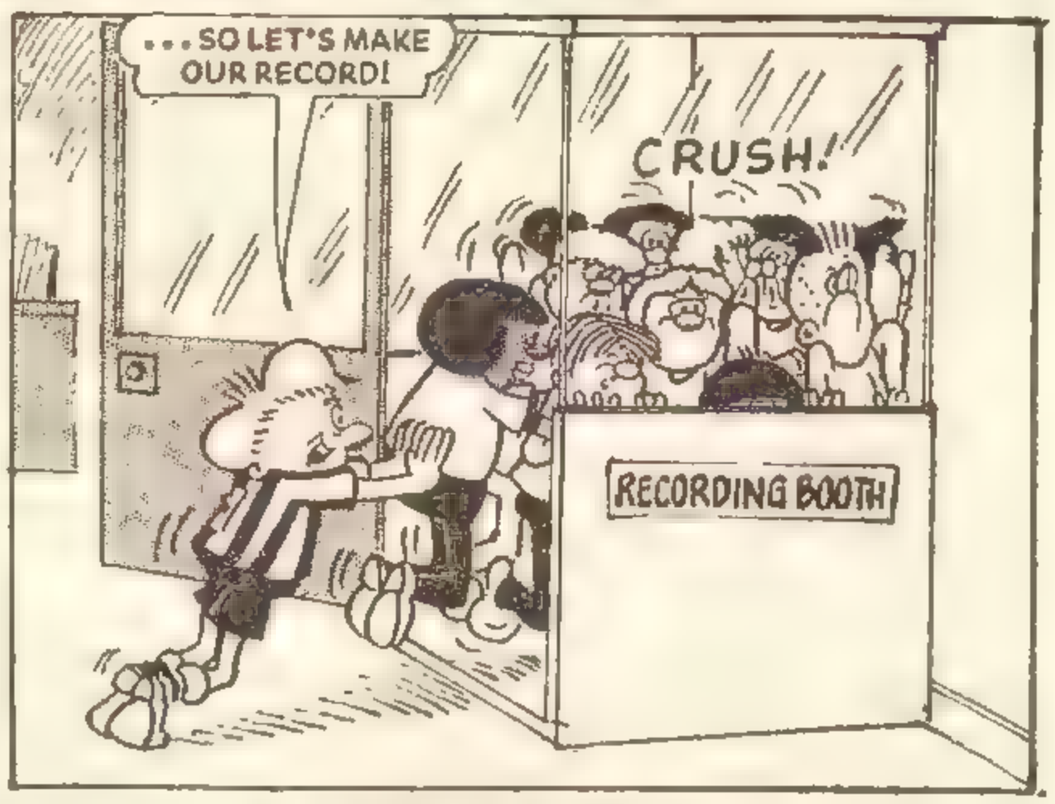
LOTS OF FOOTBALL TEAMS MAKE RECORDS!
WHEN THE BOYS BREAK CLEAR, YOU KNOW A GOAL IS NEAR . . .

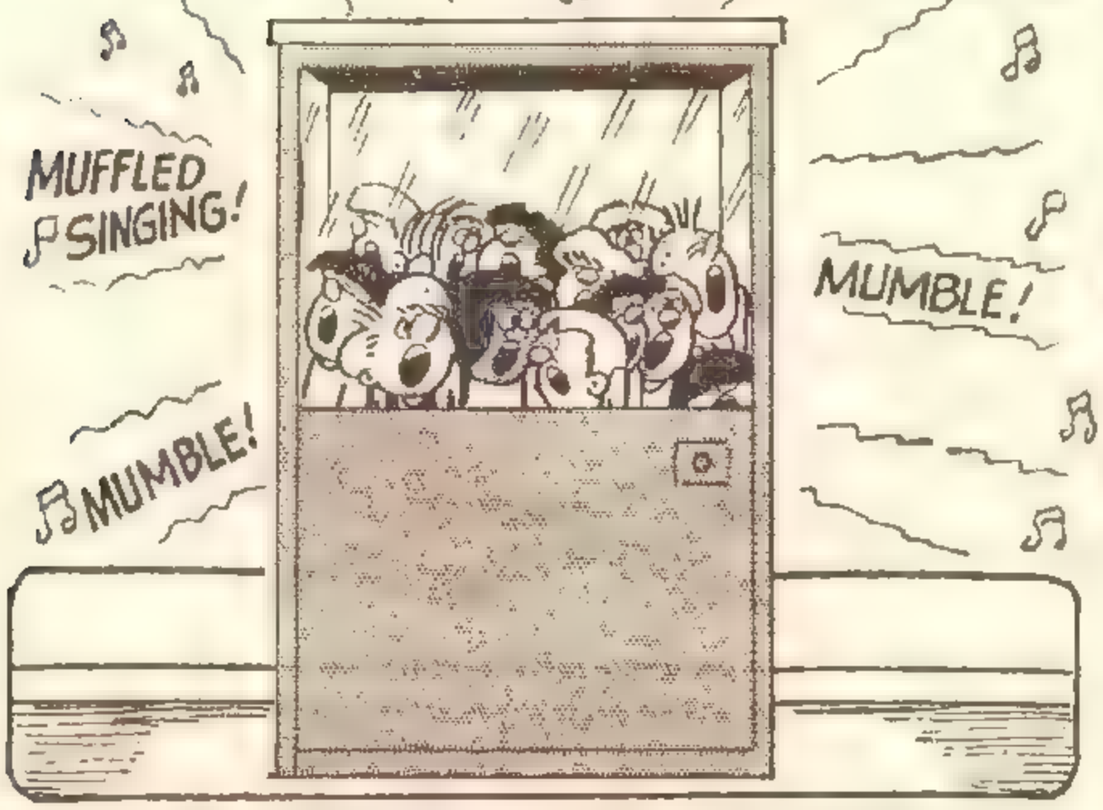
OUR TEAM SHOULD MAKE A RECORD TOO!

IN OUR STRIPS OF BLACK AND WHITE, BALL BOY'S TEAM IS DYNAMITE!
PLINK!
PLUNK!
PLONK!

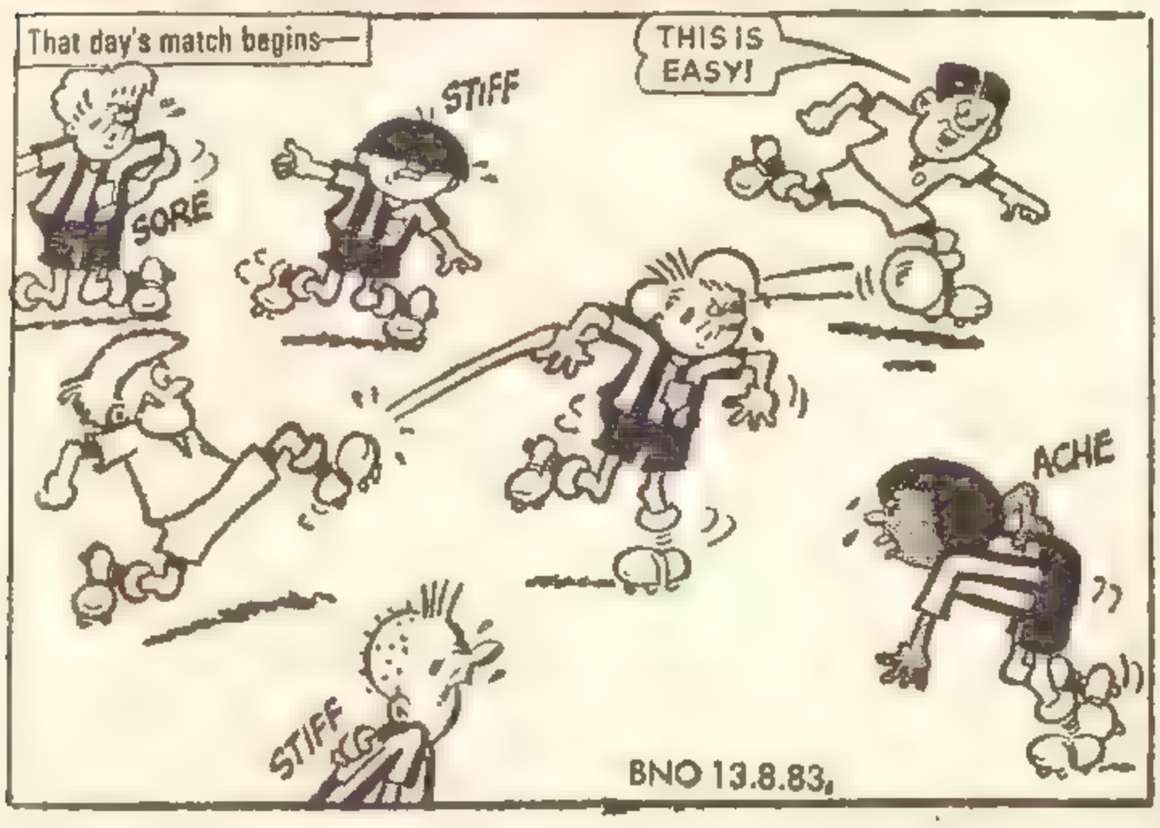
B B. phones his players—
I'VE COMPOSED A FOOTBALL SONG! COME OVER, AND LEARN IT!


Much rehearsing later—
MUSIC SHOP
RECORD YOUR OWN SONGS
RIGHT—EVERYONE KNOWS THE WORDS AND THE TUNE . . .


. . . SO LET'S MAKE OUR RECORD!
CRUSH!
RECORDING BOOTH


MUFFLED SINGING!
MUMBLE!
MUMBLE!

Then—
I'M ALL SORE!
OOH. MY BACK!
GROAN!
RECORDING BOOTH


That day's match begins—
SORE
STIFF
THIS IS EASY!
ACHE
STIFF
BNO 13.8.83.

WE MADE A RECORD AFTER ALL! 21-0 IS OUR RECORD DEFEAT!

# BALL BOY

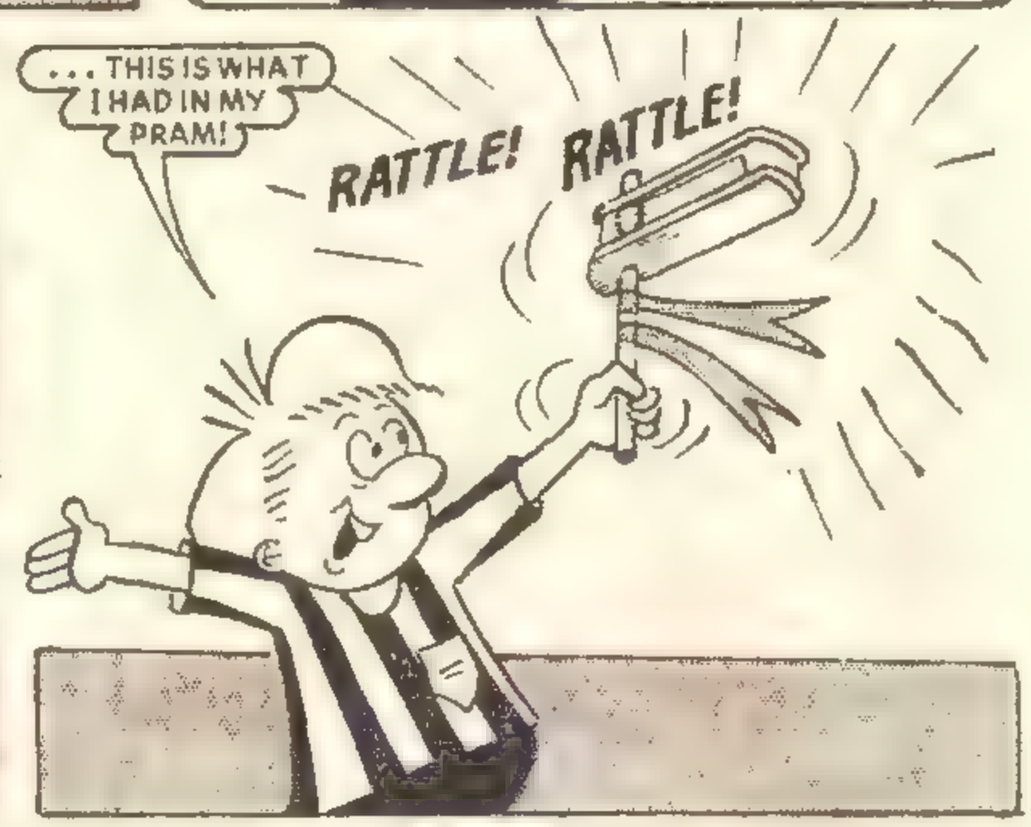
COME AND SEE MY FOOTBALL MUSEUM, READERS!

HERE ARE MY VERY FIRST FOOTBALL BOOTS!

THE ONLY THING THIS ONE FITS NOW . . .
HAND KNITTED

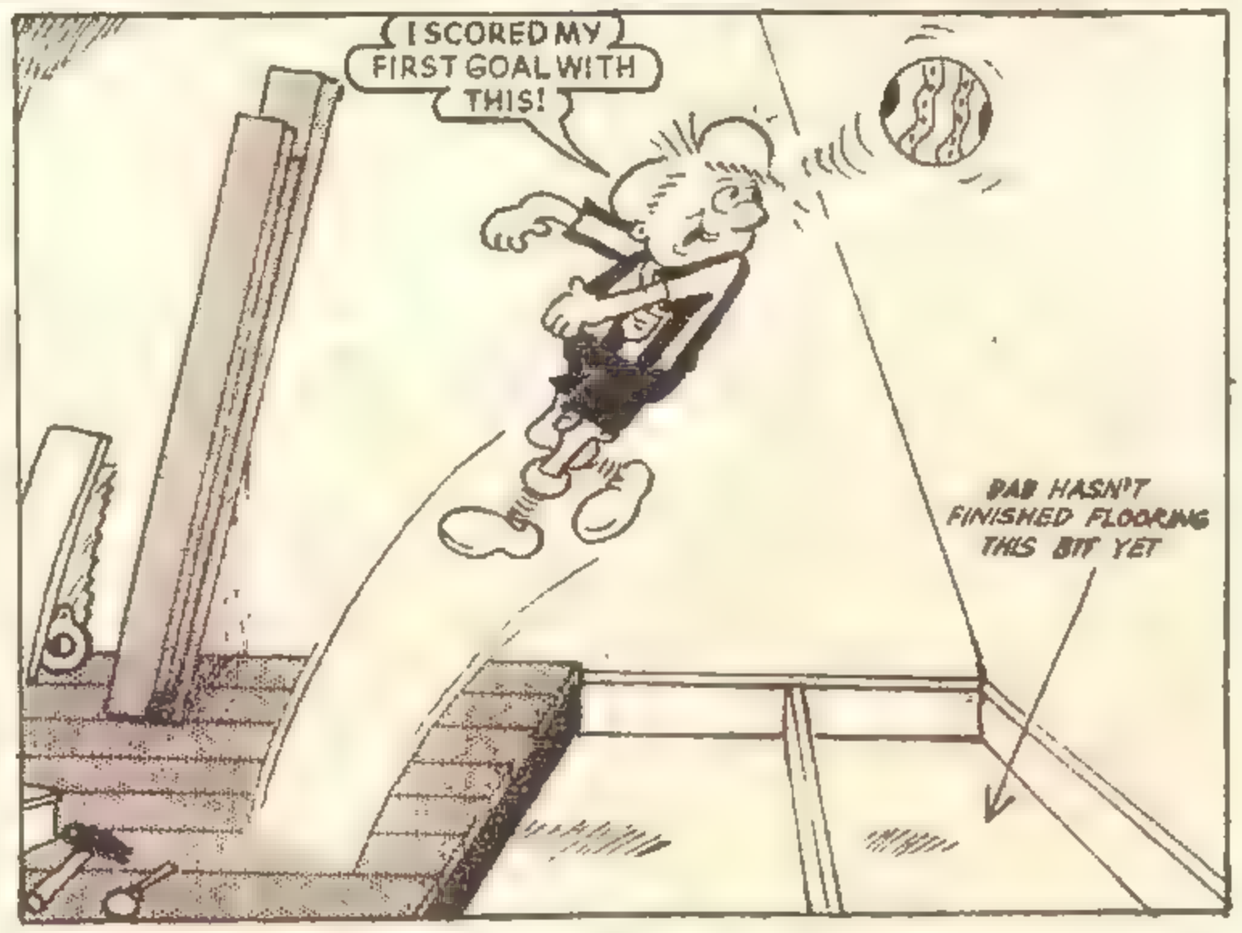
. . . IS MY BIG TOE!

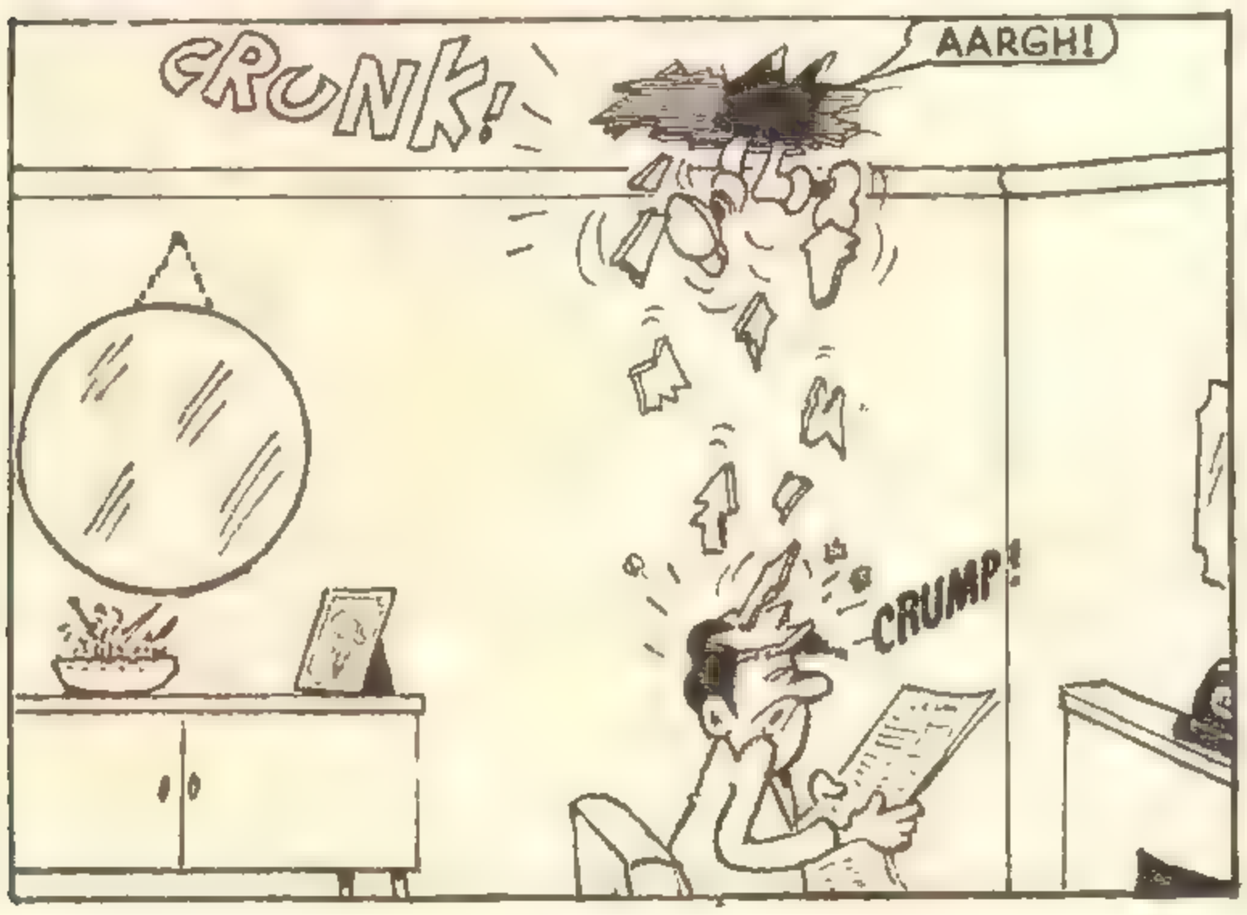
I'D NO TIME FOR BABYISH RATTLES . . .
RATTLE!


. . . THIS IS WHAT I HAD IN MY PRAM!
RATTLE!
RATTLE!

AH! MY FIRST BALL!

IT'S STILL USEABLE!


I SCORED MY FIRST GOAL WITH THIS!
DAD HASN'T FINISHED FLOORING THIS BIT YET

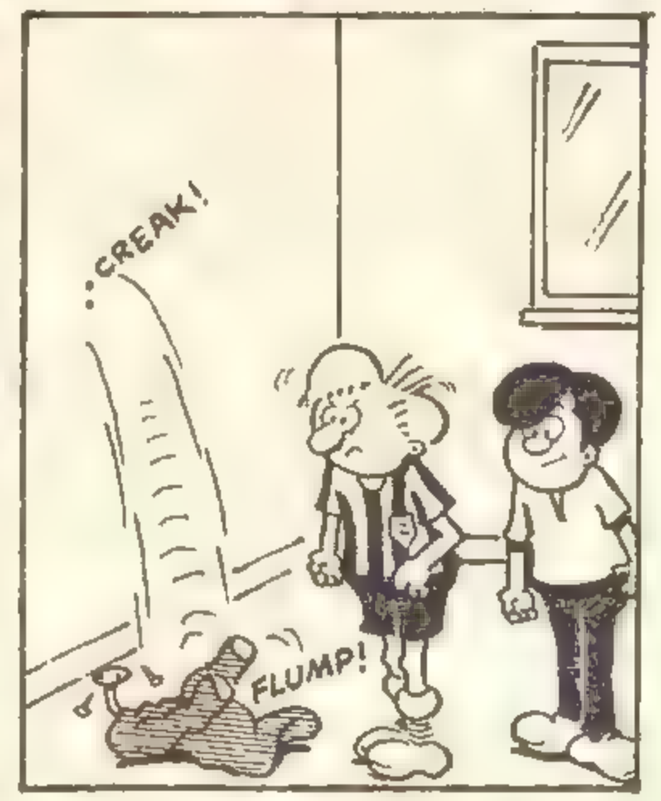

CRUNK!
AARGH!
CRUMP!

BAH! I'M HAVING TO SELL OFF MY EXHIBITS TO PAY FOR A NEW CEILING!
COO! THIS'LL FIT MY DOLLY.
BB'S FIRST FOOTBALL JERSEY
TOY SALE
BNO 20.8.83

# BALL BOY

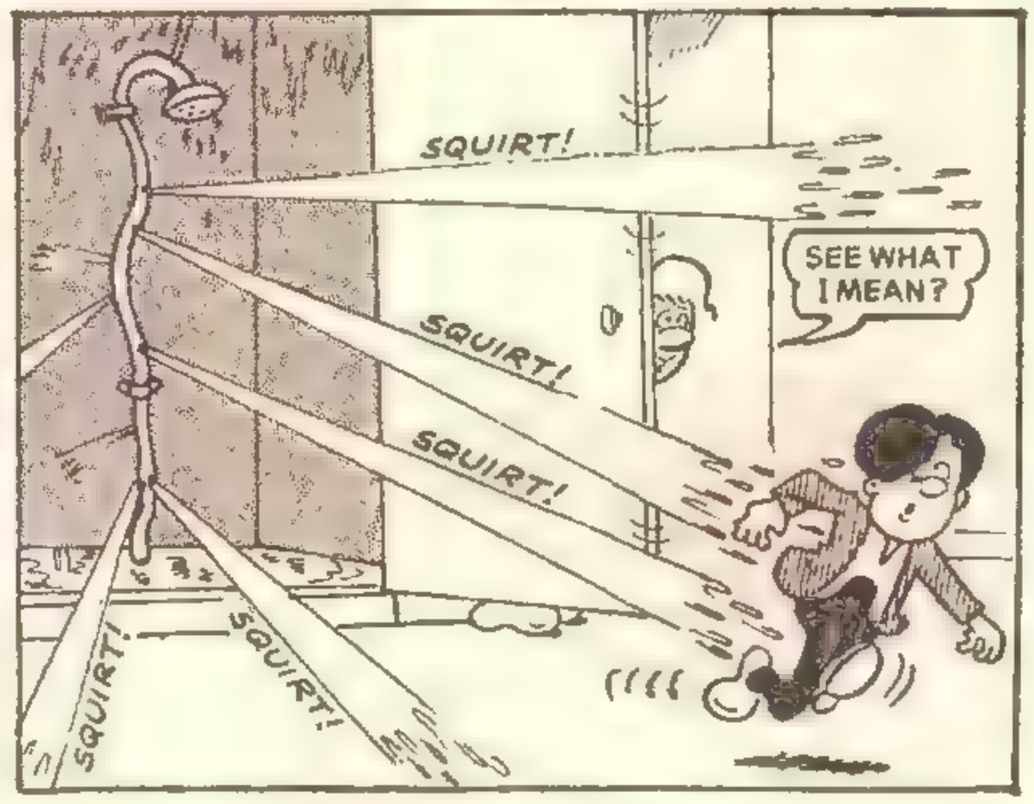
THAT'S NICKY CHARLES, THE BEST YOUNG PLAYER IN TOWN! I'M GOING TO TRY TO SIGN HIM UP!

B.B. shows Nicky the dressing rooms—
THIS COULD BE YOUR OWN SPECIAL PEG . . .


CREAK!
FLUMP!

. . . ON SECOND THOUGHTS, YOU CAN USE THE TABLE. DON'T WANT YOU STRETCHING FOR YOUR JACKET!

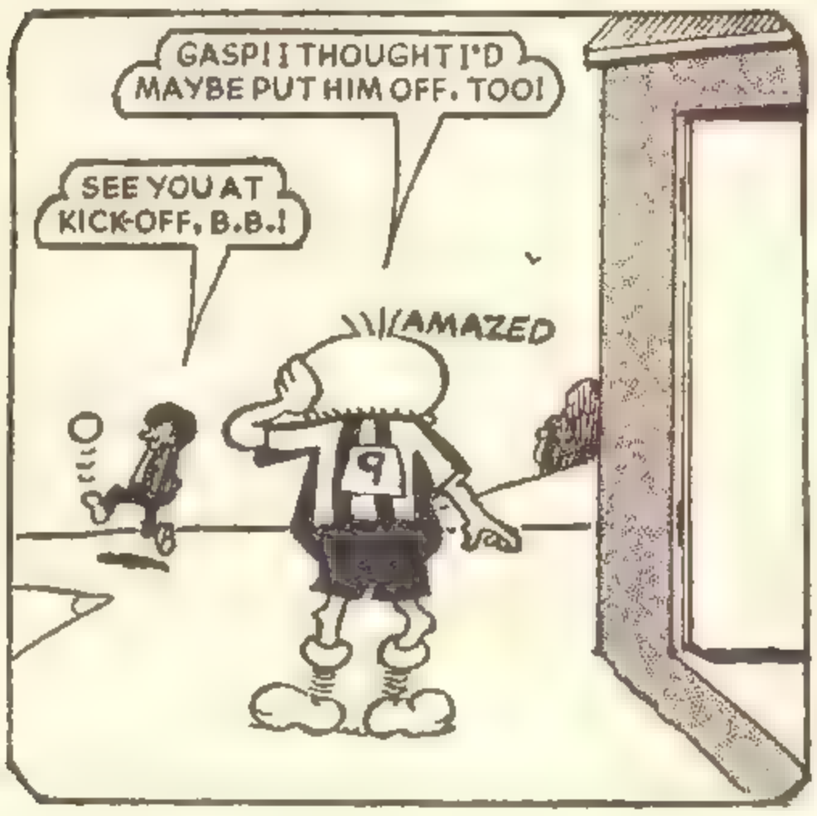
SHOWER
YOU WOULD GET A GOOD SHOWER AFTER THE MATCH.

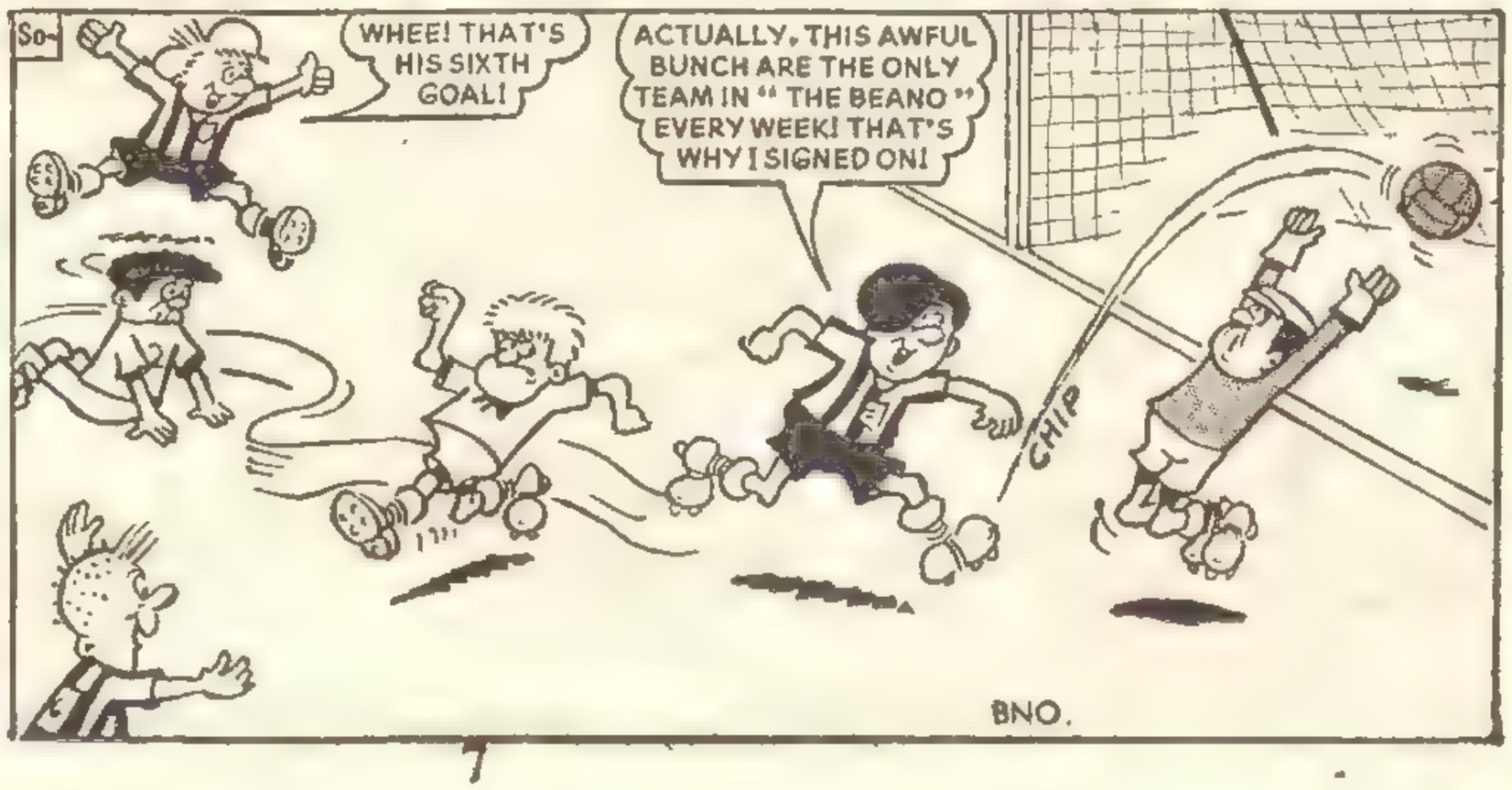

SQUIRT!
SQUIRT!
SQUIRT!
SQUIRT!
SQUIRT!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?

YOU'D GET A FREE TRACK SUIT, TOO.
1
2

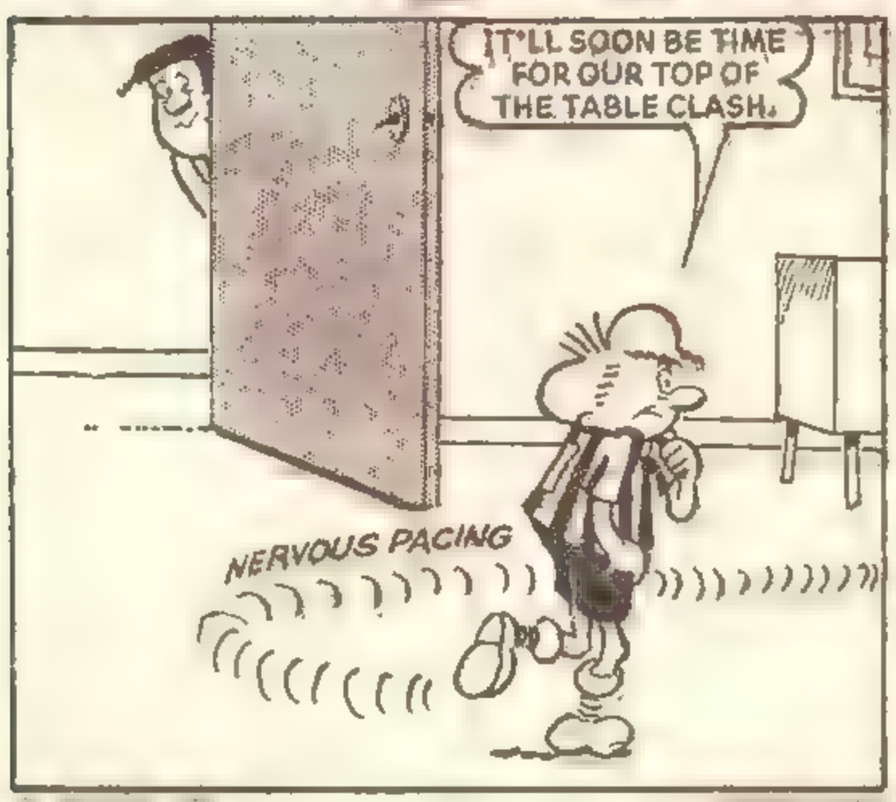
YOUR MUM WOULDN'T NEED TO USE A LOT OF WASHING POWDER ON IT!

OK—I'LL SIGN FOR ONE GAME!
COO! YOU WILL?


GASP! I THOUGHT I'D MAYBE PUT HIM OFF, TOO!
SEE YOU AT KICK-OFF, B.B.!
AMAZED


So—
WHEE! THAT'S HIS SIXTH GOAL!
ACTUALLY, THIS AWFUL BUNCH ARE THE ONLY TEAM IN "THE BEANO" EVERY WEEK! THAT'S WHY I SIGNED ON!
CHIP
BNO.

# BALL BOY

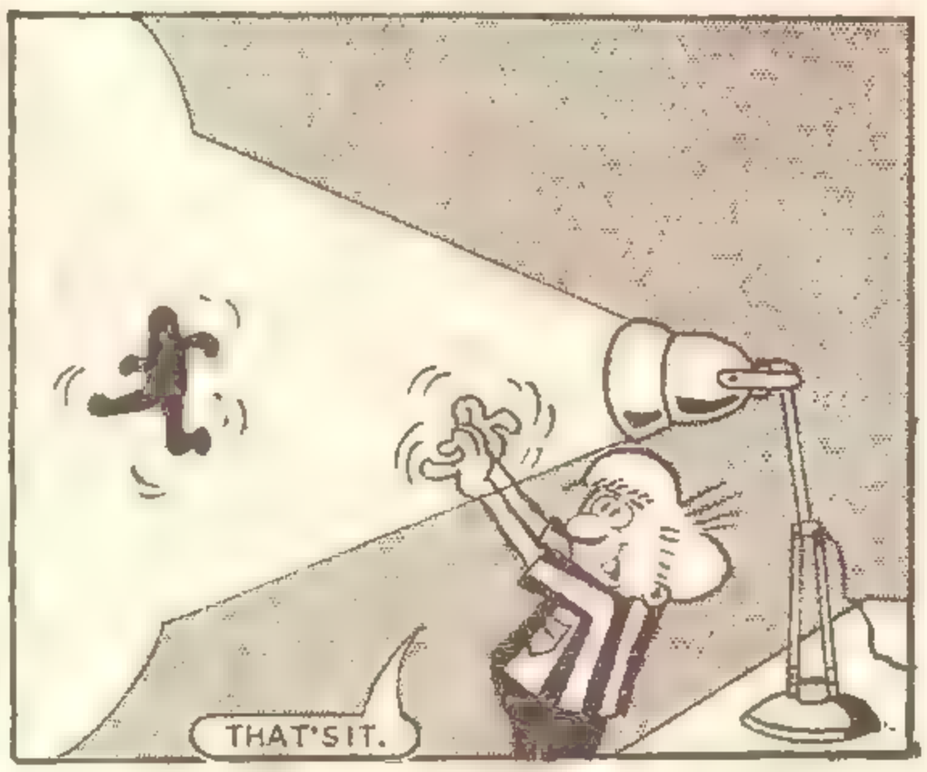

IT'LL SOON BE TIME FOR OUR TOP OF THE TABLE CLASH.
NERVOUS PACING

TOP OF THE LEAGUE TABLE CLASH. EH? MUST GO AND SEE THIS.

I'LL DO SOME WARMING-UP EXERCISES.

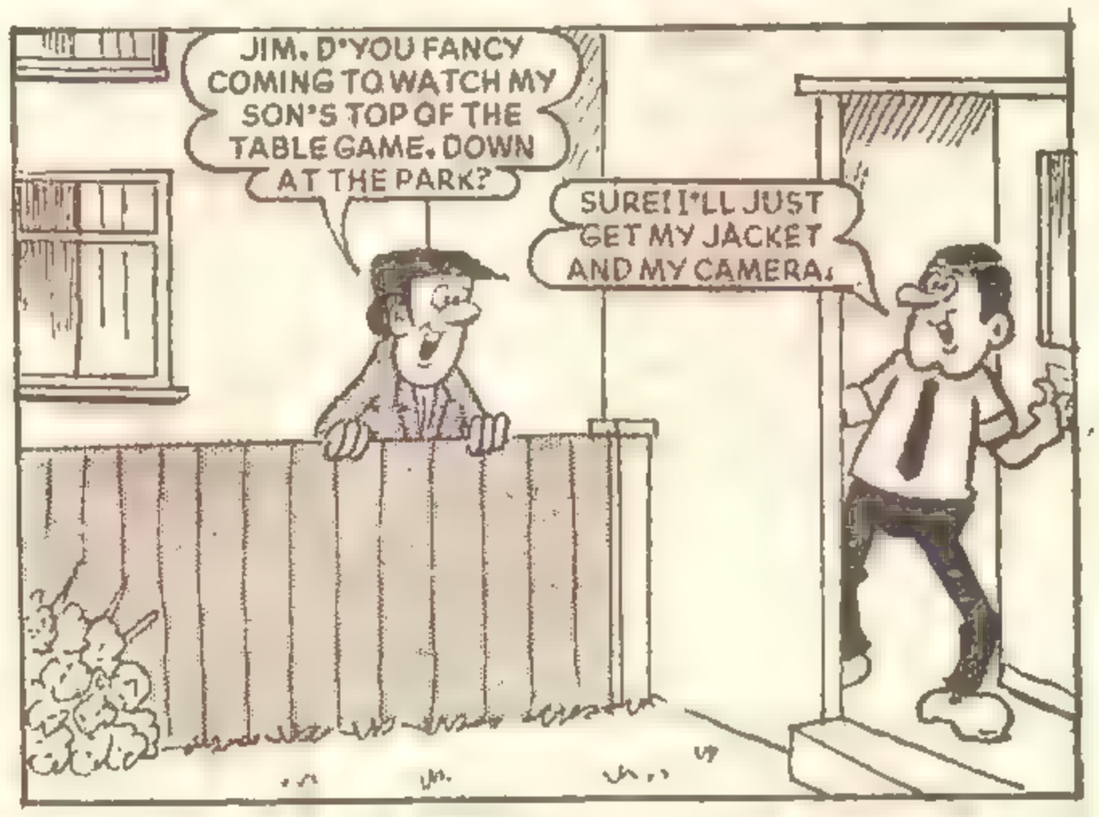
TOOTLE!
READER
FUNNY FOOTBALL EXERCISE. THAT!

NEXT EXERCISE COMING UP.
SWISH!
SWISH!

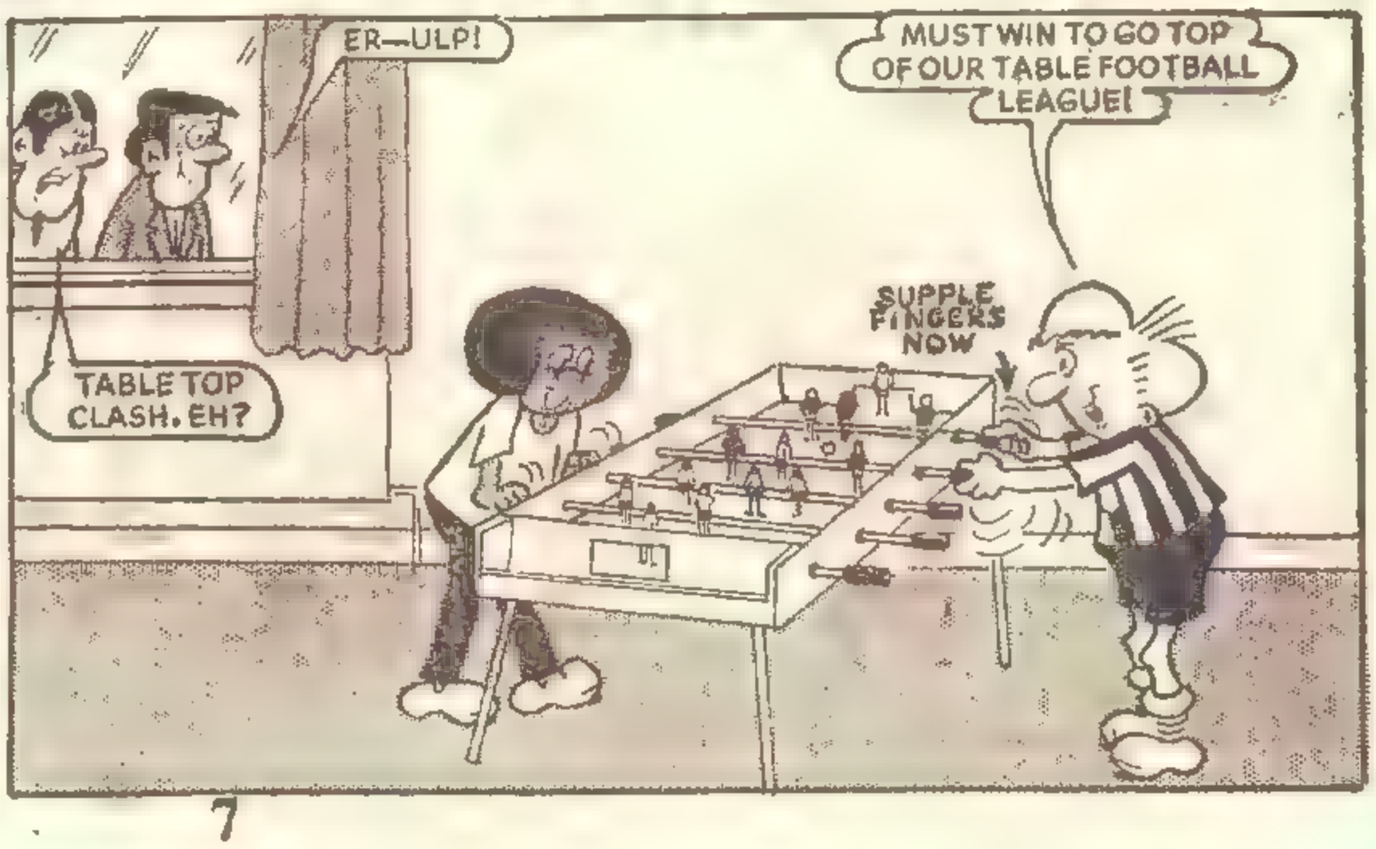

THAT'S IT.

I'M GETTING REALLY WARMED UP NOW.

A QUICK "CAT'S CRADLE", AND I'M READY.


JIM, D'YOU FANCY COMING TO WATCH MY SON'S TOP OF THE TABLE GAME, DOWN AT THE PARK?
SURE! I'LL JUST GET MY JACKET AND MY CAMERA.

But—
WHAT WAS THAT?
GOAL!
BNO 3.9.83


ER—ULP!
TABLE TOP CLASH. EH?
MUST WIN TO GO TOP OF OUR TABLE FOOTBALL LEAGUE!
SUPPLE FINGERS NOW

# BALL BOY

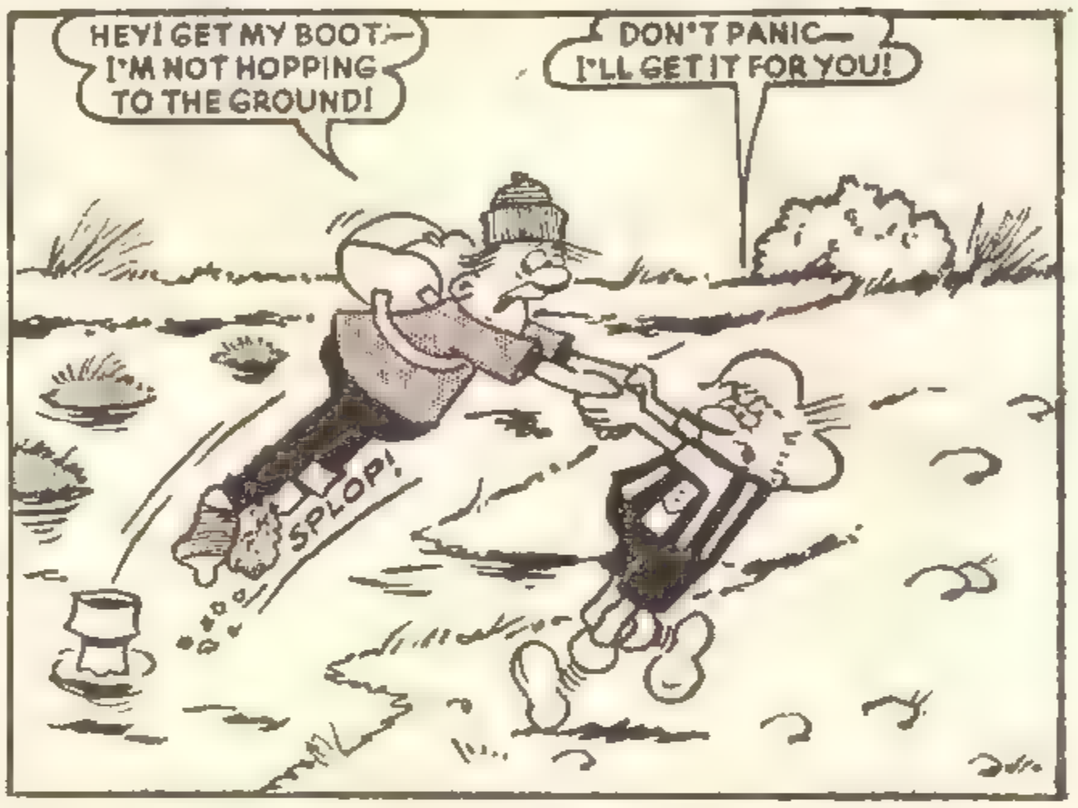
Ron Tripp's only got to enter Mudchester United's stadium, to have visited every league ground in Britain, in a year—
WELCOME TO MUDCHESTER
AND TODAY'S THE LAST DAY OF THAT YEAR!

COULD YOU DIRECT ME TO THE STADIUM, PLEASE?
SURE—I'LL TAKE YOU THE WAY I ALWAYS GO.

LIKE DODGING OPPONENTS, THIS!

HELP!
EH?

I'M STUCK!
HUH! I'LL HAUL YOU OUT!

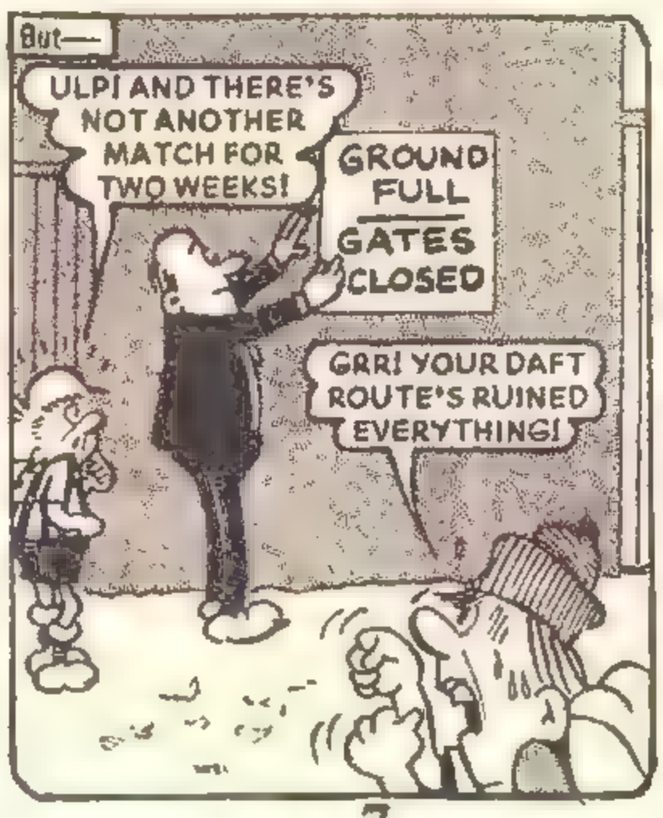

HEY! GET MY BOOT—I'M NOT HOPPING TO THE GROUND!
DON'T PANIC—I'LL GET IT FOR YOU!
SPLOP!

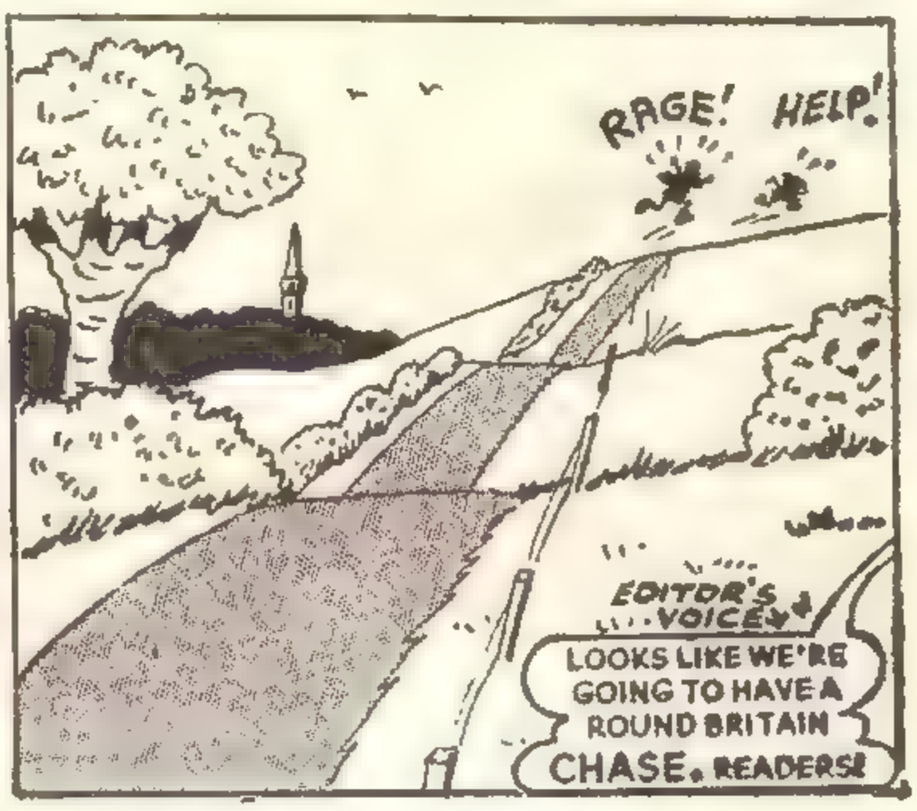
And soon—
THIS IS LIKE JUMPING OVER WILD TACKLES!
LEAP

ERK! MY TROUSERS ARE STUCK!
OOH!
BRAKE!

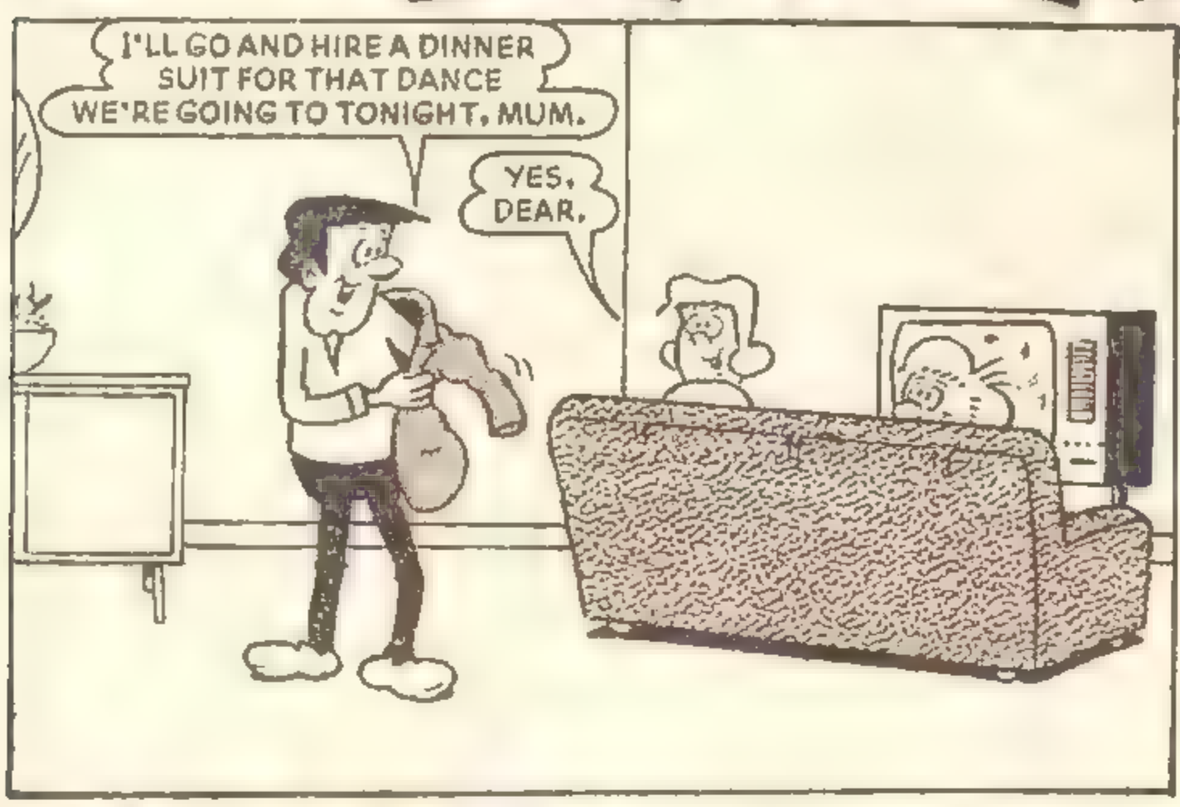
COME ON, SLOWCOACH—WE'RE NEARLY THERE!
R-RIP!
PULL

ROAR!
THIS IS IT!
I'LL BE FAMOUS! BET NO-ONE ELSE HAS VISITED EVERY GROUND IN ONE YEAR!
BNO 10.9.83


But—
ULP! AND THERE'S NOT ANOTHER MATCH FOR TWO WEEKS!
GROUND FULL
GATES CLOSED
GRR! YOUR DAFT ROUTE'S RUINED EVERYTHING!


RAGE!
HELP!
EDITOR'S VOICE
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A ROUND BRITAIN CHASE, READERS!

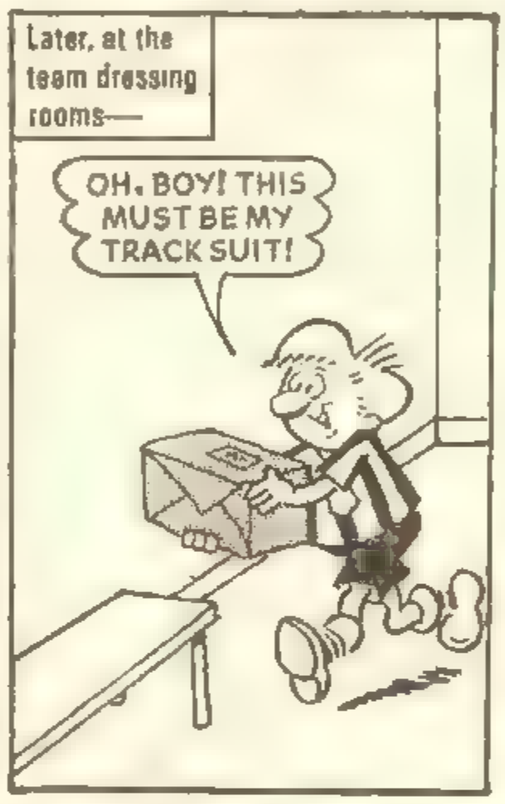
# BALL BOY


I'LL GO AND HIRE A DINNER SUIT FOR THAT DANCE WE'RE GOING TO TONIGHT, MUM.
YES, DEAR.

HMM! I COULD HIRE A TRACK SUIT FOR TONIGHT'S TRAINING.

Later, at the dress hire shop—
I'LL HAVE IT DELIVERED, SIR.
THANKS.
HERE GOES!

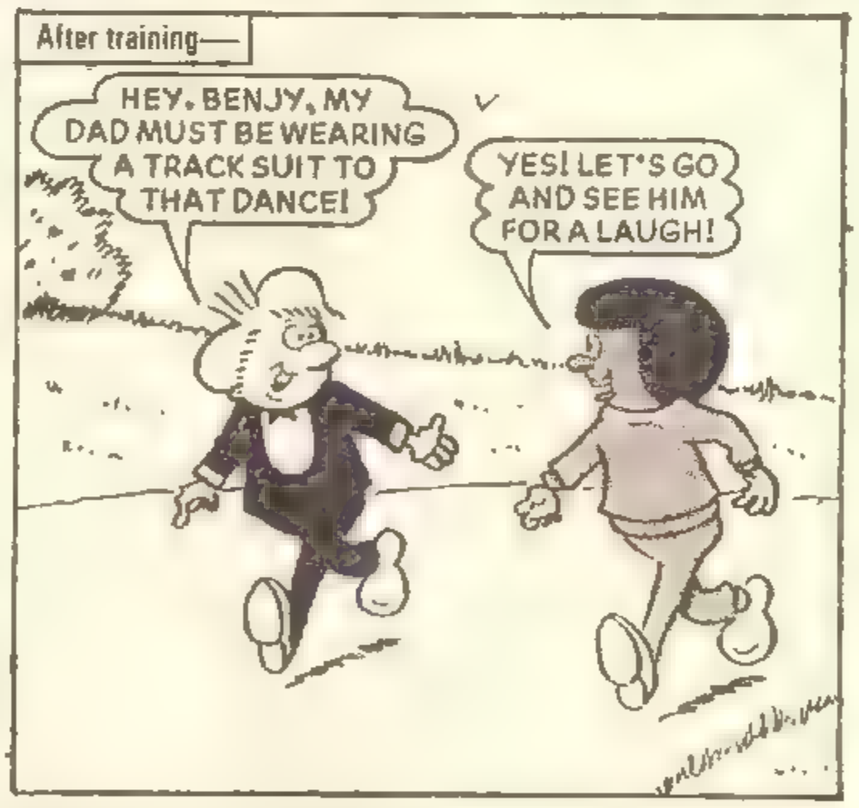
So—
IT'S AN UNUSUAL REQUEST, BUT I CAN MANAGE IT.
DELIVER IT TO THIS ADDRESS. PUT IT ON MY DAD'S BILL.

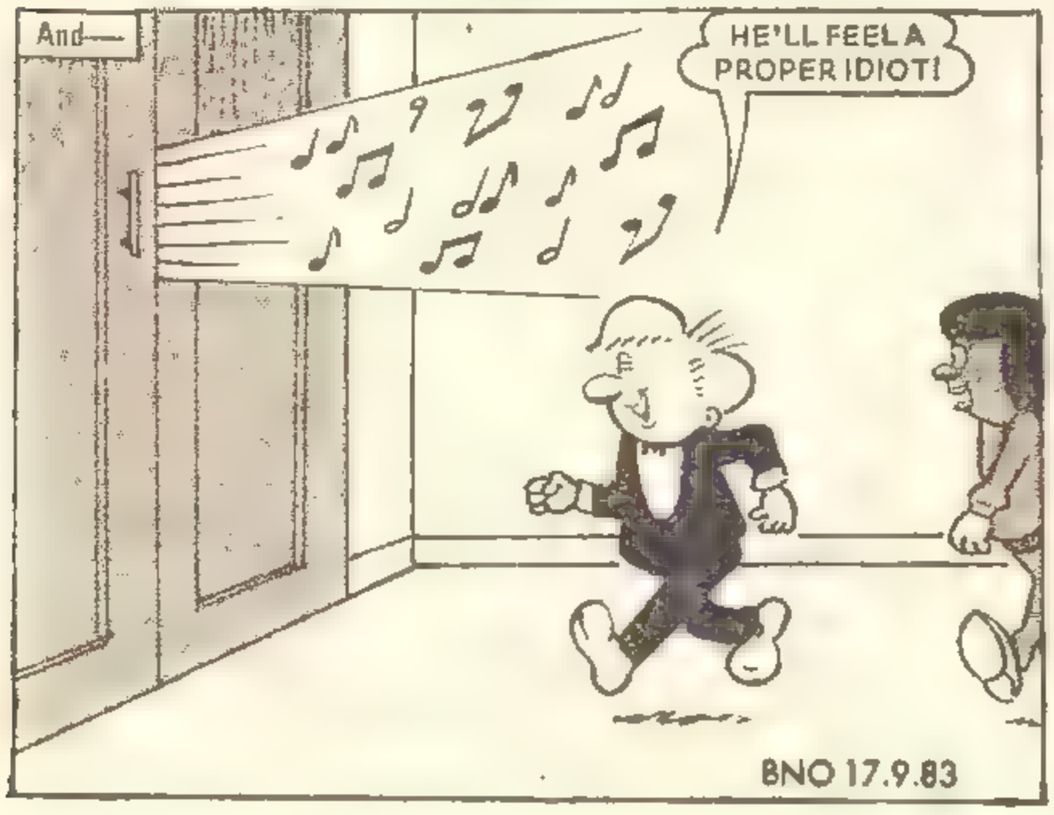

Later, at the team dressing rooms—
OH, BOY! THIS MUST BE MY TRACK SUIT!

But—
AARGH!

HAW! HAW! LET'S START TRAINING, THEN!
HAR! HAR!

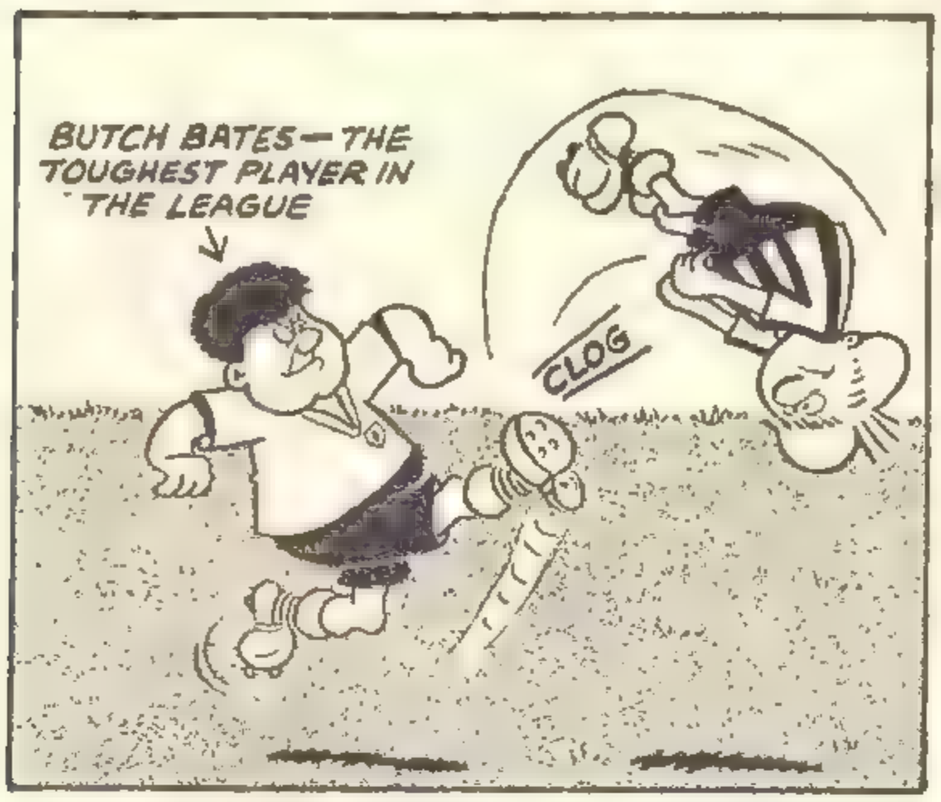
And—
HUH! THAT SHOP'S GOT MY DAD'S ORDER AND SIZE MIXED UP WITH MINE!
STRETCH
BEND


After training—
HEY, BENJY, MY DAD MUST BE WEARING A TRACK SUIT TO THAT DANCE!
YES! LET'S GO AND SEE HIM FOR A LAUGH!

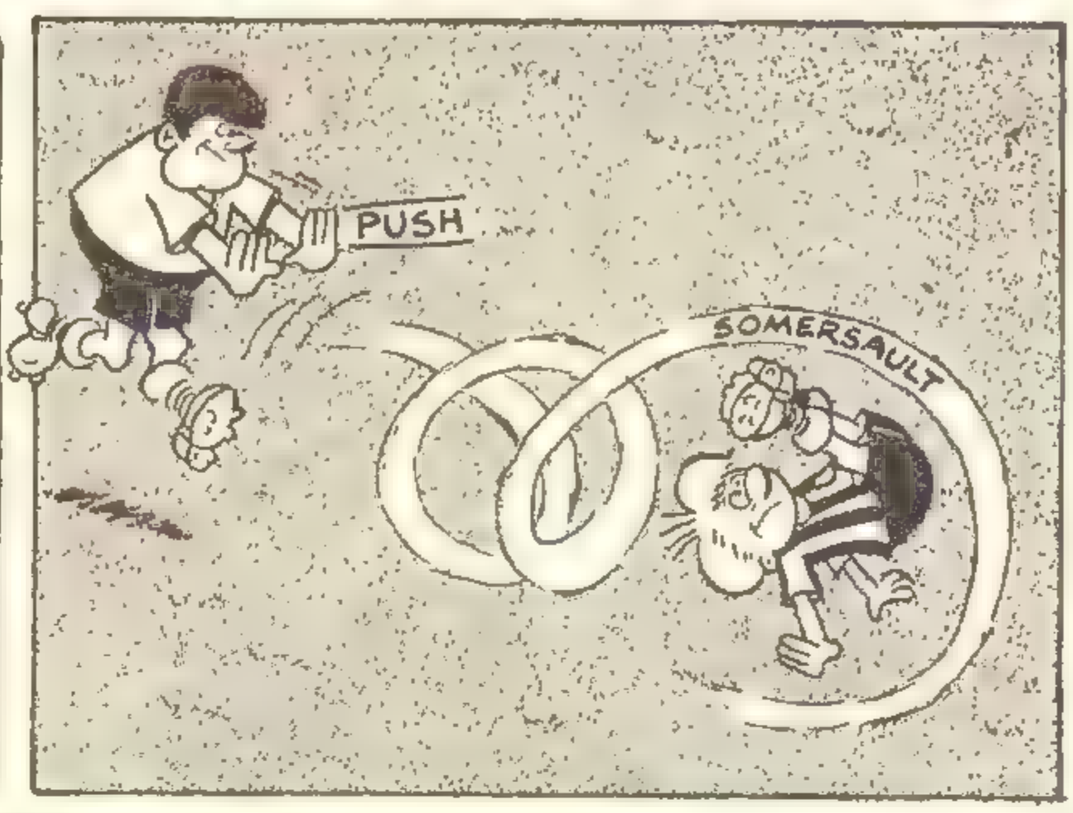

And—
HE'LL FEEL A PROPER IDIOT!
BNO 17.9.83

But—
DISCO MUSIC
PHEW! LUCKY THEY GOT THE ORDER WRONG! I'D HAVE FELT DAFT IN A DINNER SUIT!
HUH! NONE OF THIS SUITS ME AT ALL!

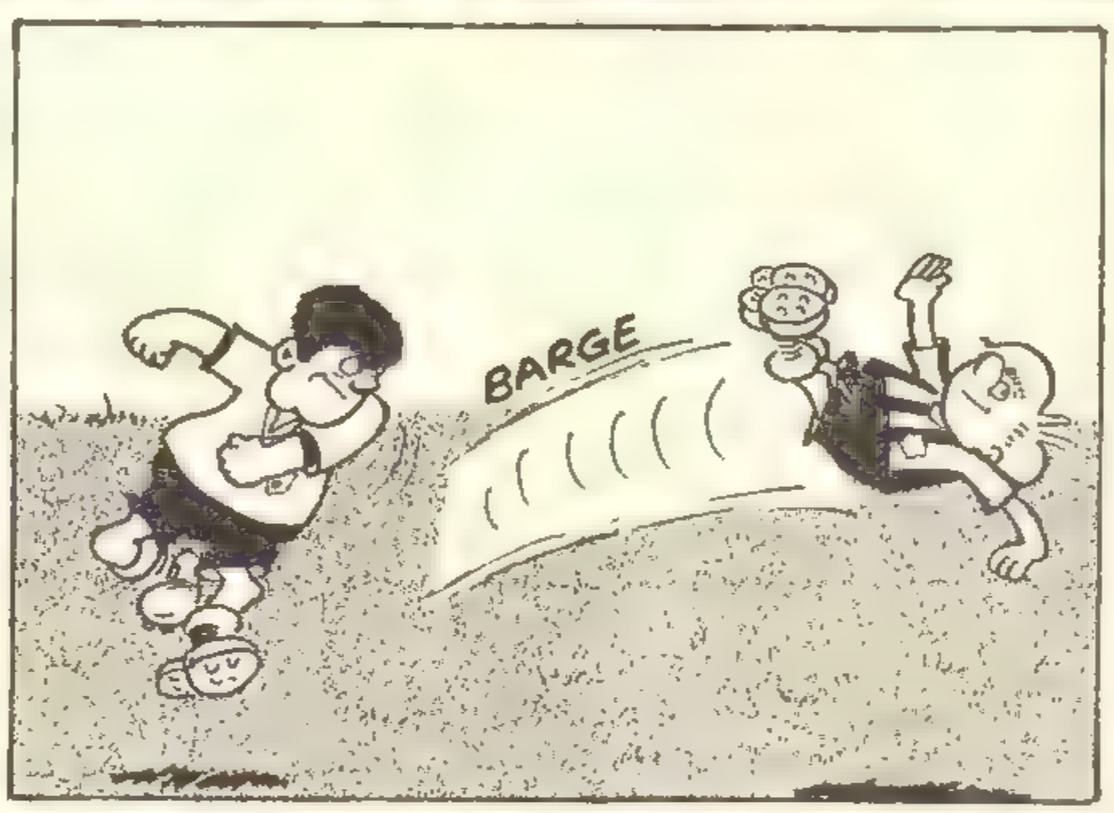
# BALL BOY

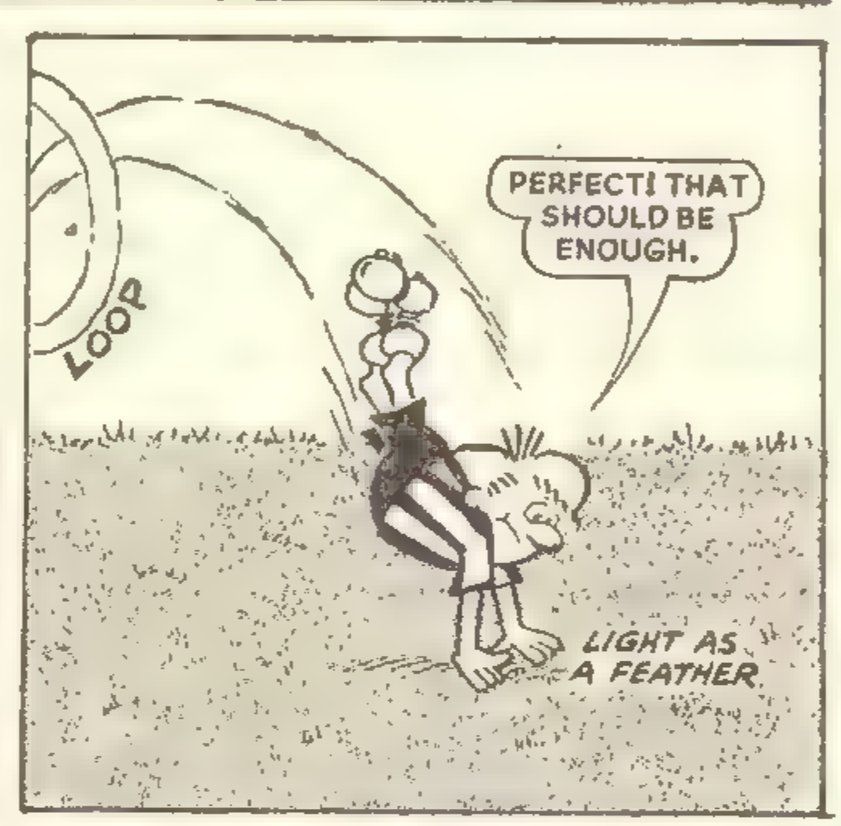

BUTCH BATES — THE TOUGHEST PLAYER IN THE LEAGUE
CLOG

THANKS, BUTCH—JUST WHAT I NEEDED!
SOFT LANDING

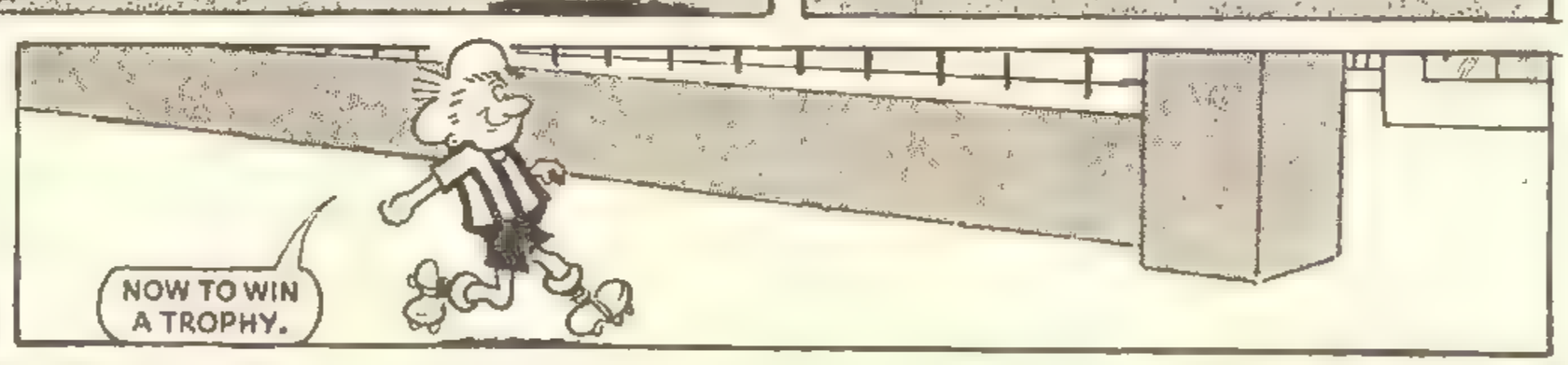

PUSH
SOMERSAULT

FINE, BUTCH— ONCE MORE!
GENTLE DROP.


BARGE

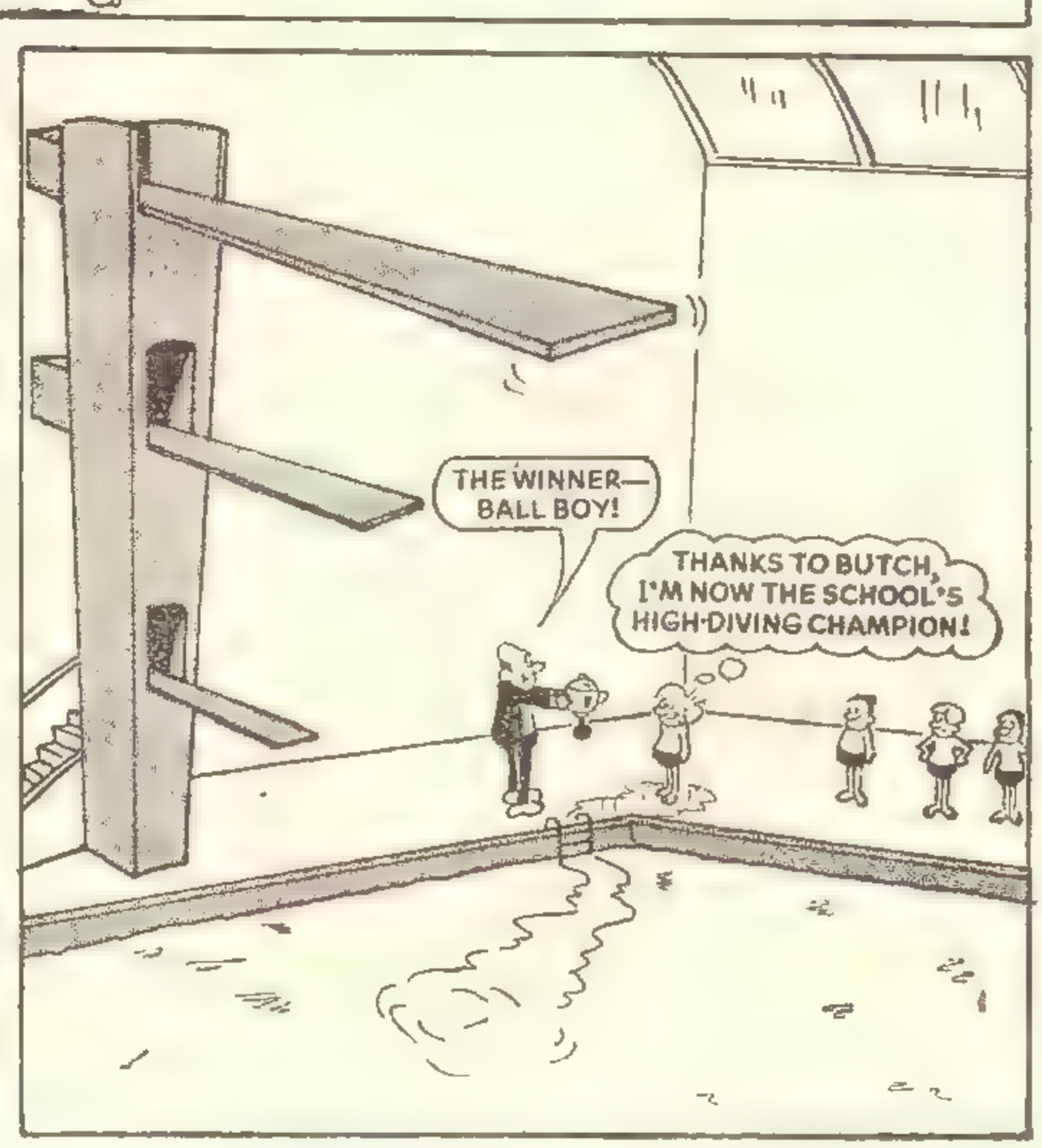

PERFECT! THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
LOOP
LIGHT AS A FEATHER.

MUCH OBLIGED, BUTCH.
MY PLEASURE.


NOW TO WIN A TROPHY.

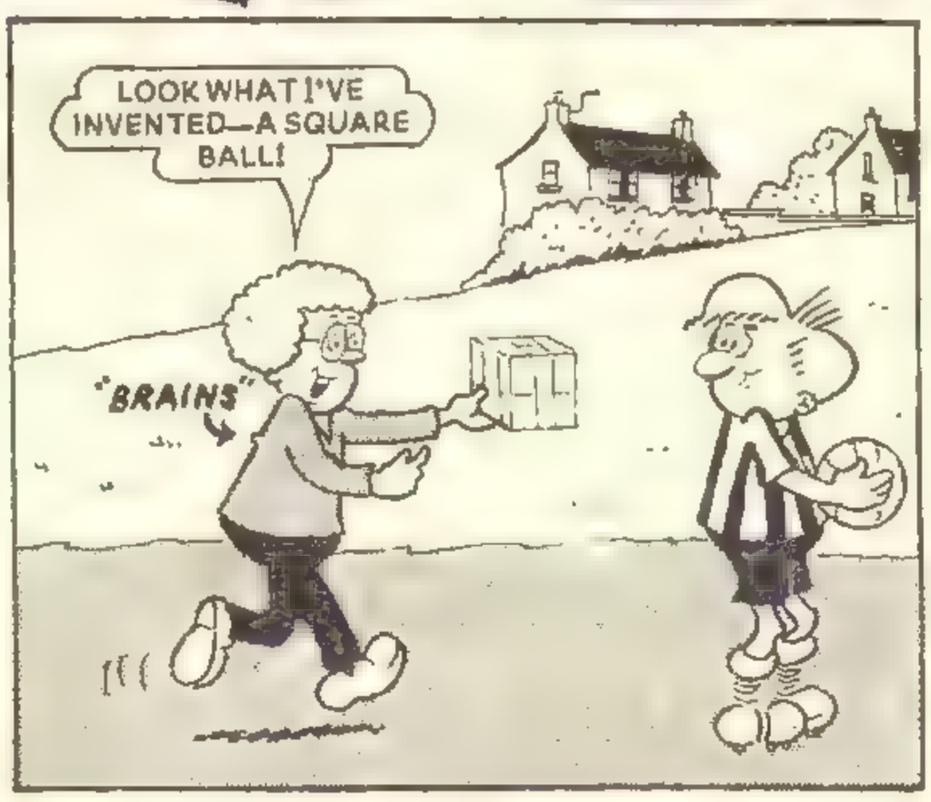
BNO 24.9.83

SPLASH!

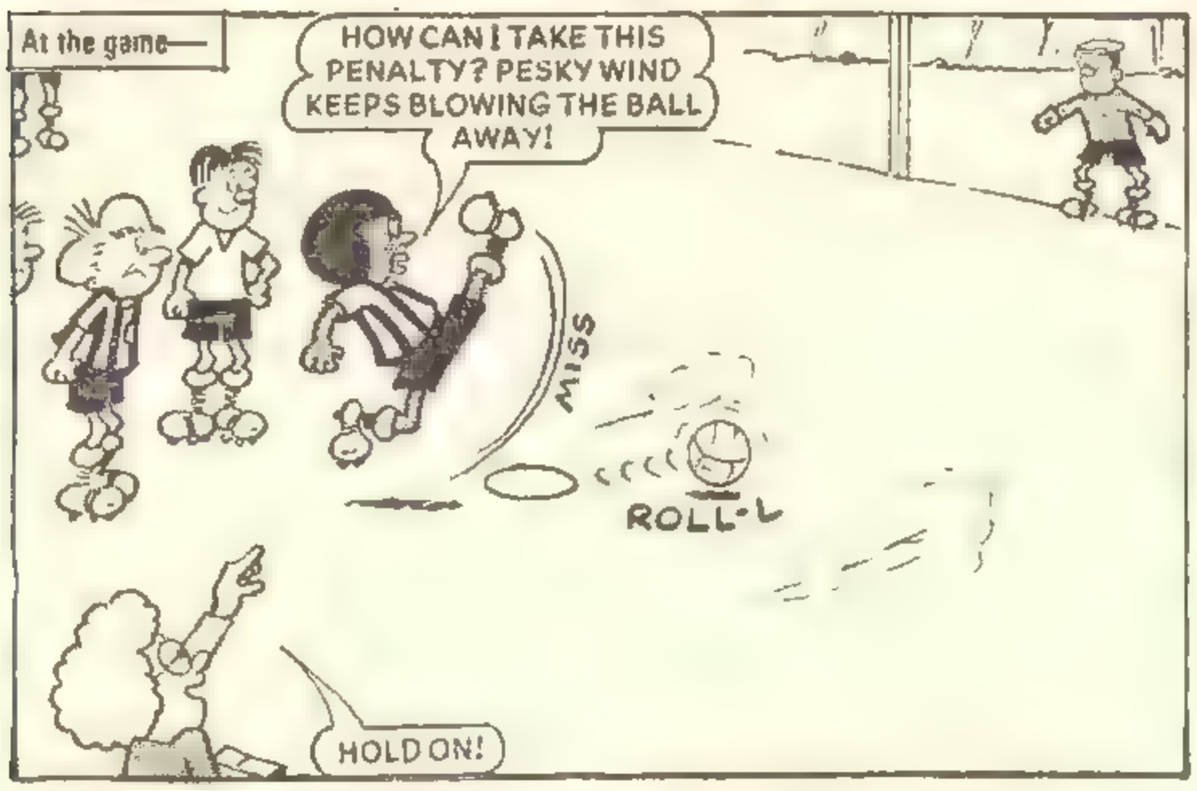

THE WINNER— BALL BOY!
THANKS TO BUTCH, I'M NOW THE SCHOOL'S HIGH-DIVING CHAMPION!

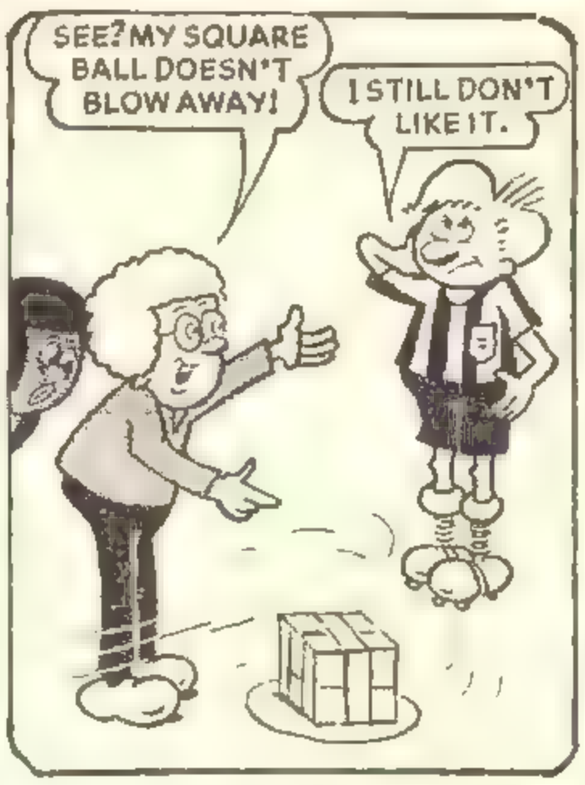
# BALL BOY

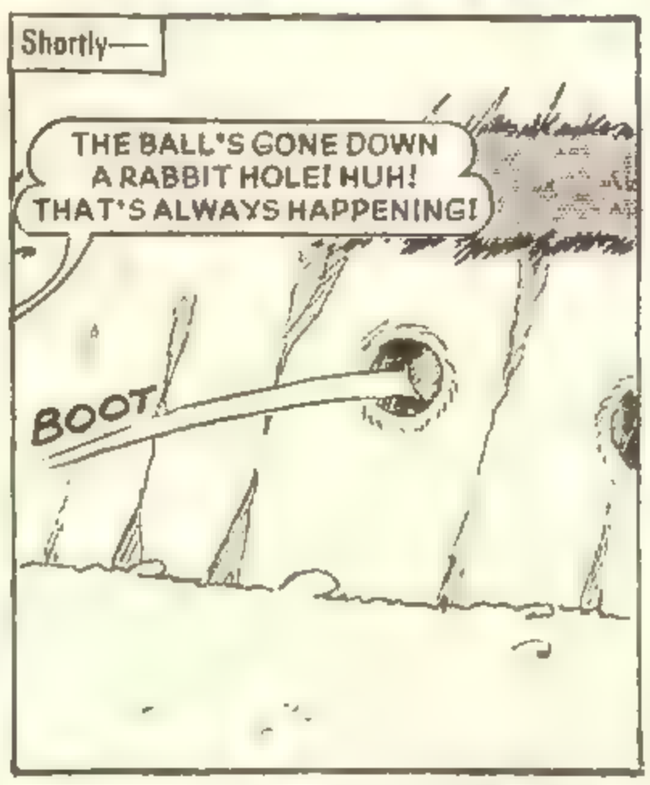
YOO-HOO! BALL BOY!
WHO'S THAT?


LOOK WHAT I'VE INVENTED—A SQUARE BALL!
"BRAINS"

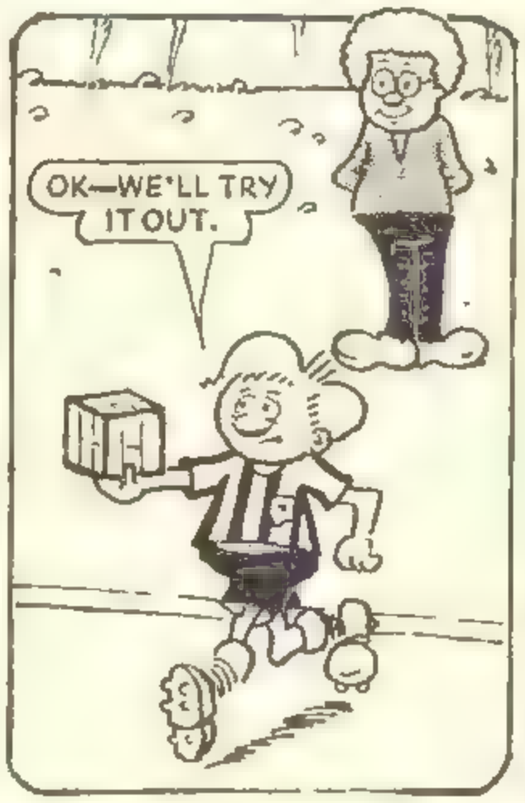
HAW! HAW! THAT'S ABOUT AS USEFUL AS A CHOCOLATE TEA POT!
AH, BUT WAIT . . .


At the game—
HOW CAN I TAKE THIS PENALTY? PESKY WIND KEEPS BLOWING THE BALL AWAY!
MISS
ROLL-L
HOLD ON!


SEE? MY SQUARE BALL DOESN'T BLOW AWAY!
I STILL DON'T LIKE IT.


Shortly—
THE BALL'S GONE DOWN A RABBIT HOLE! HUH! THAT'S ALWAYS HAPPENING!
BOOT

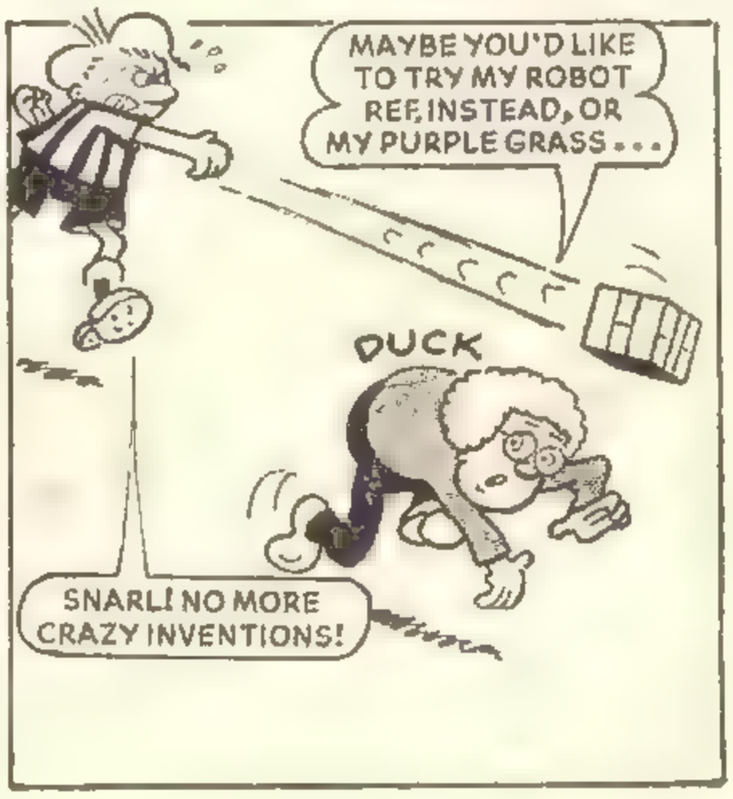
CAN WE HAVE OUR BALL BACK PLEASE?
SEE? THAT WOULDN'T HAPPEN WITH A SQUARE BALL!
RASP!
STICK
PUSH


OK—WE'LL TRY IT OUT.

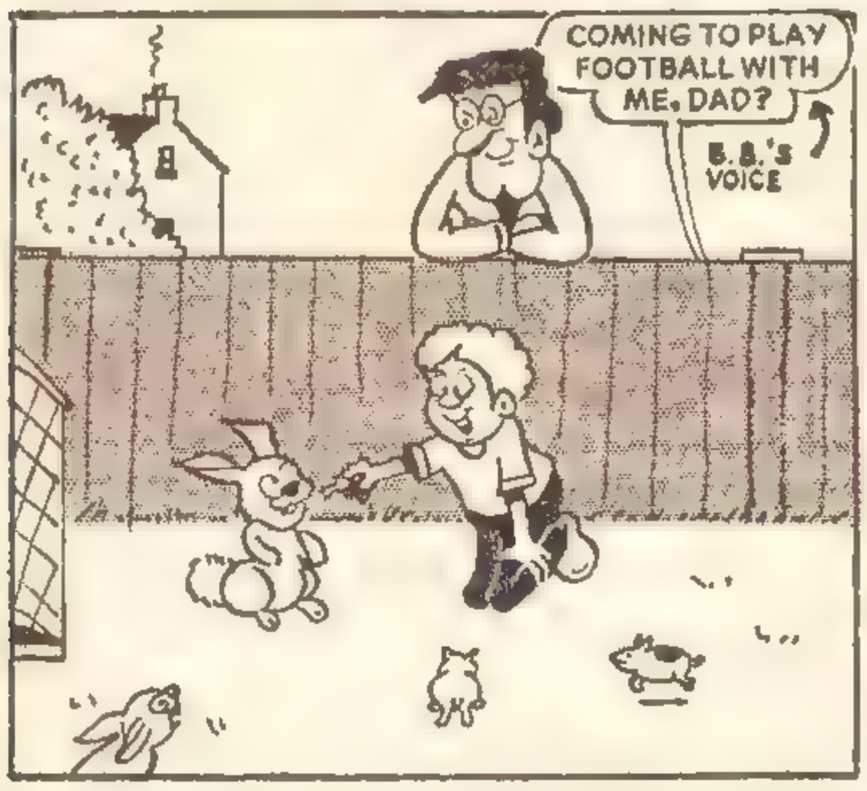
PASS
BOOT IT THROUGH, BENJY!

GREAT PASS, BENJY! I MUST SCORE!
POISED
BNO 1.10 83

OOOF!
WILD BOUNCE

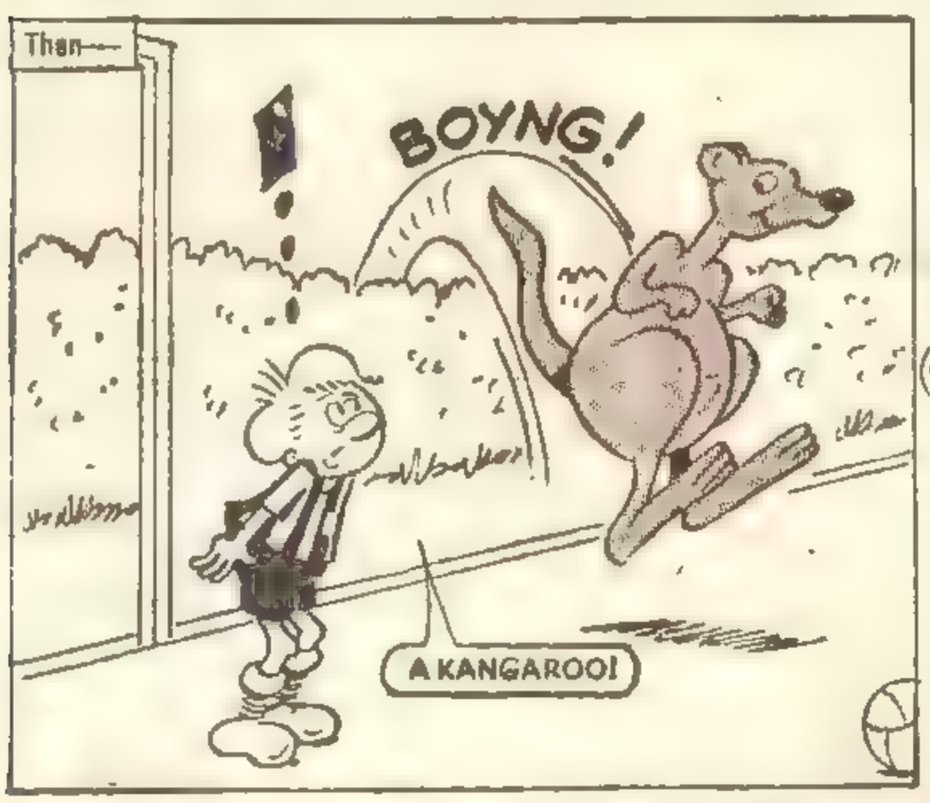

MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO TRY MY ROBOT REF, INSTEAD, OR MY PURPLE GRASS . . .
DUCK
SNARL! NO MORE CRAZY INVENTIONS!

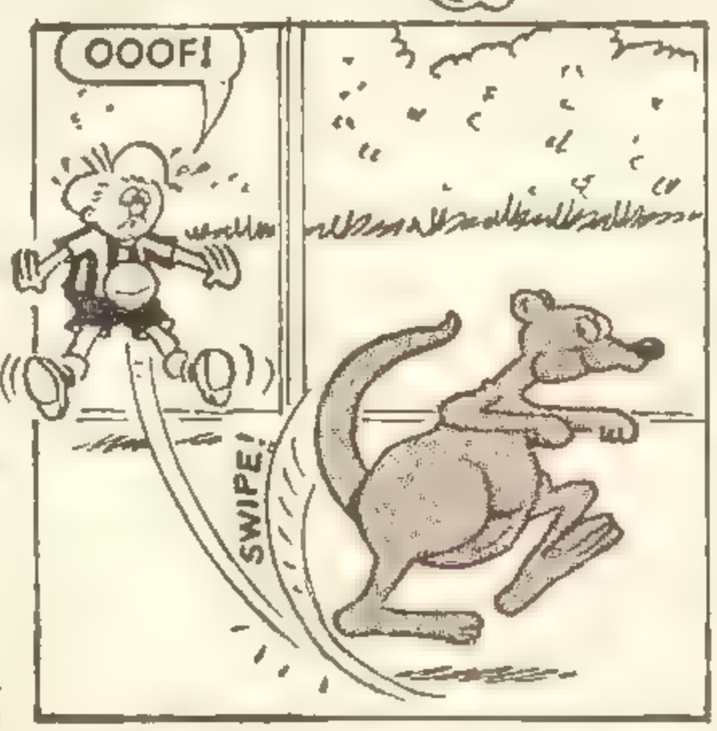
# BALL BOY


COMING TO PLAY FOOTBALL WITH ME, DAD?
B.B.'S VOICE

FOOTBALL, FOOTBALL, FOOTBALL! WHY CAN'T YOU GET INTERESTED IN PETS, LIKE OTHER KIDS?
HUH! PETS CAN'T PLAY FOOTBALL.

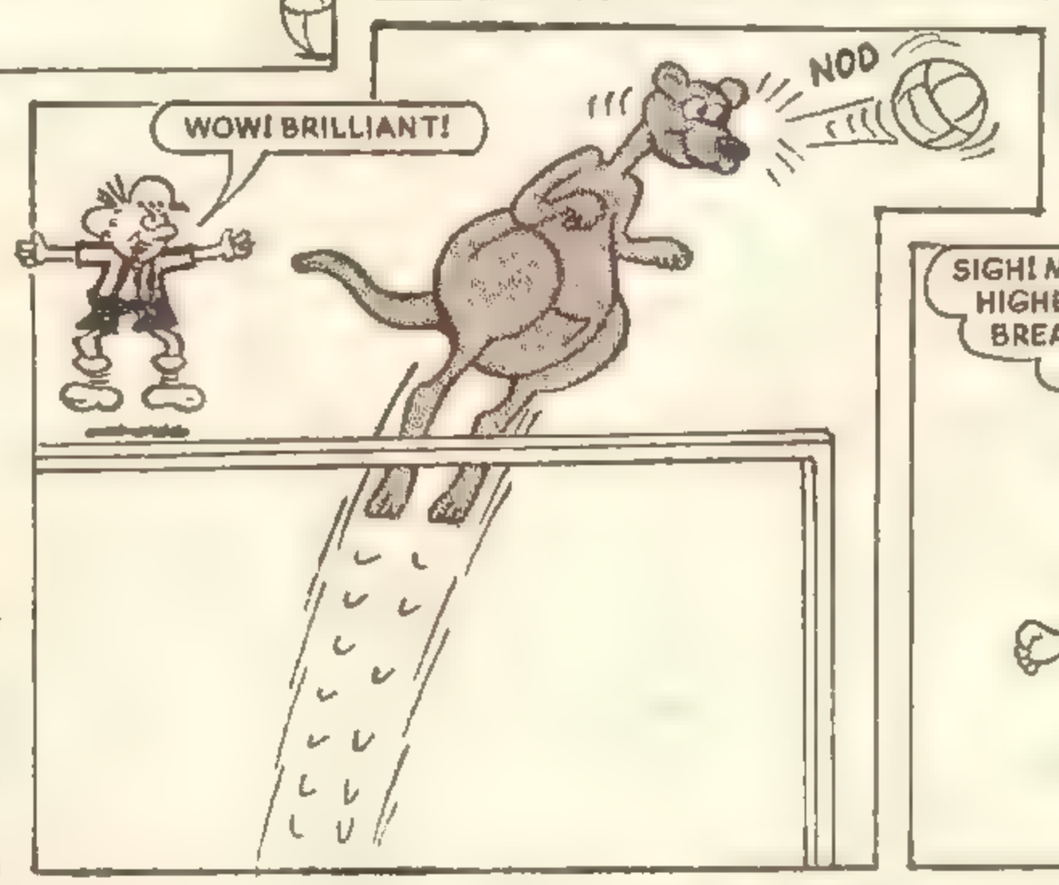
PLAYING FIELDS
SIGH! I'VE NOBODY TO PLAY WITH.


Then—
BOYNG!
A KANGAROO!


OOOF!
SWIPE!

GASP! IT CARRIES ITS OWN FIRST AID KIT!
SPLASH! SPONGE

LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE IN THE AIR, KANGAROO!
BOOT!


WOW! BRILLIANT!
NOD

Just then—
SIGH! MUST MAKE HIS FENCE HIGHER AGAIN—HE KEEPS BREAKING OUT TO PLAY FOOTBALL!

Then—
DAD! DAD! CAN I HAVE A PET?
AT LAST—A CHANGE FROM SOCCER.

A FOOTBALLING KANGAROO!
GROAN! I MIGHT'VE GUESSED!
SWOON
BNO 8.10.83

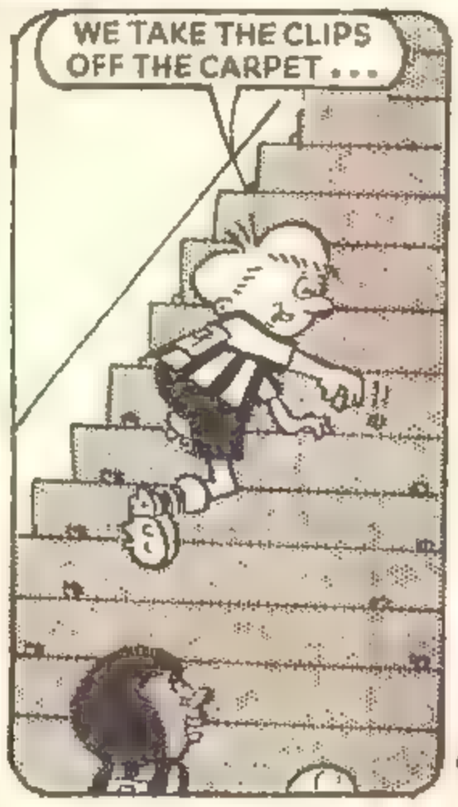
# BALL BOY

In Dad's garage—
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
RUMBLE!
?

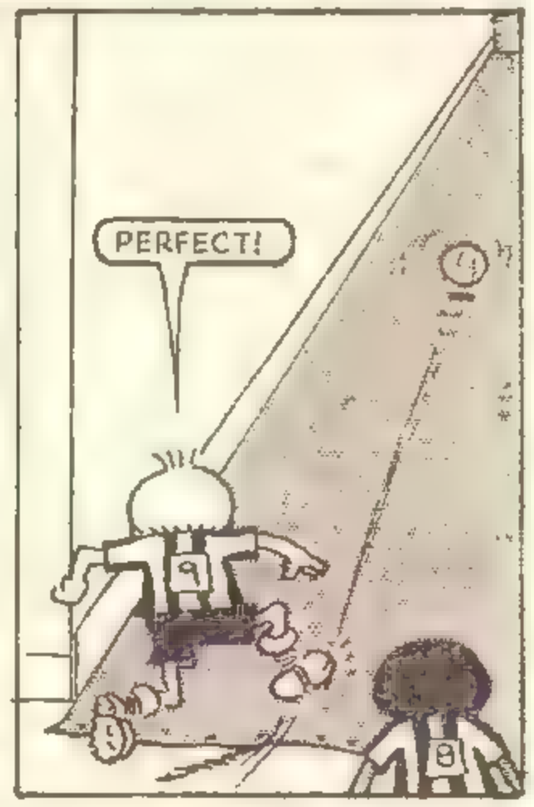
GOOD PASS, B.B.
EH?

GET DOWN FROM THERE!
OK! HUH!

I'VE ANOTHER IDEA, BENJY.


WE TAKE THE CLIPS OFF THE CARPET . . .

. . . PULL THE CARPET TIGHT THEN TACK IT DOWN.


PERFECT!

EXPLAIN, MY LAD!
ER—LET'S GO, BENJY!
SLIDE

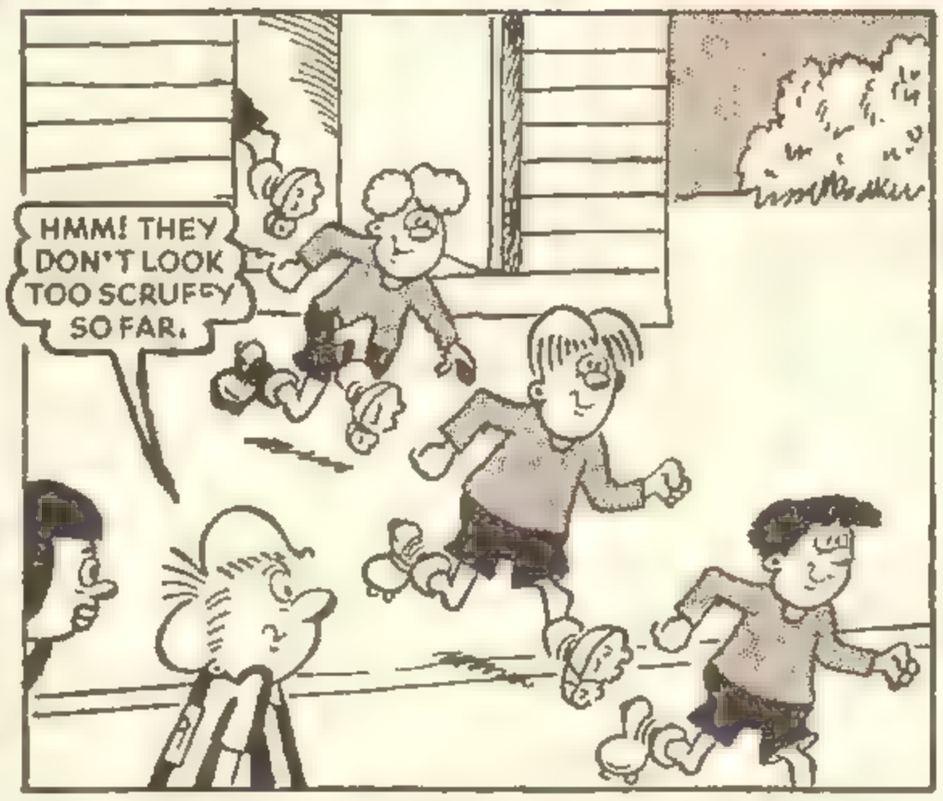
Later—
OUR SON'S BEEN ACTING STRANGELY LATELY.

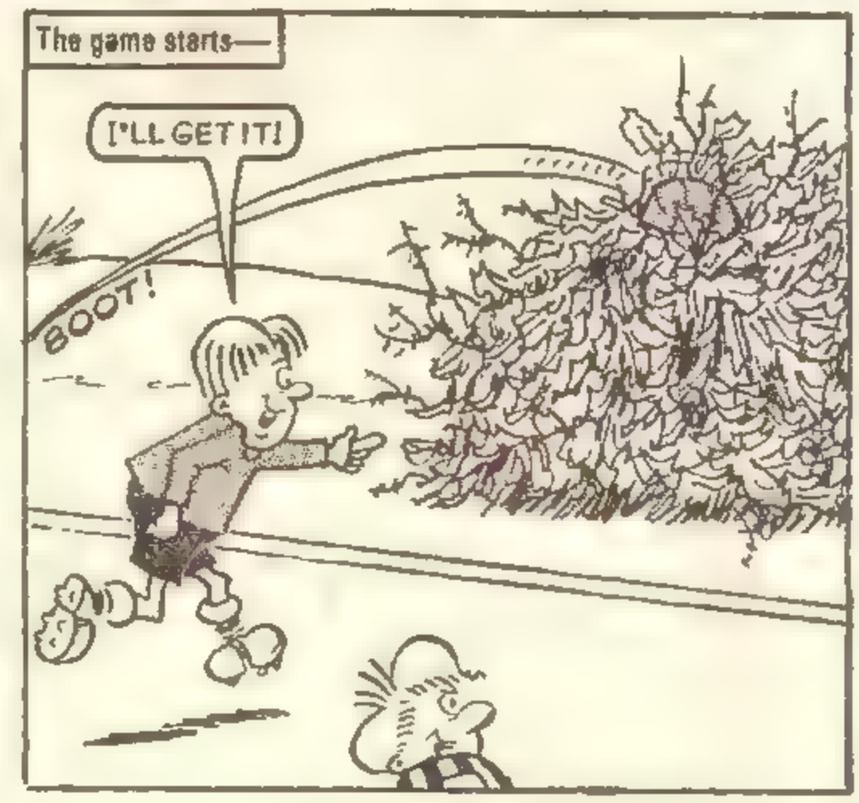
AH! NOW I SEE!
PASS, BENJY!

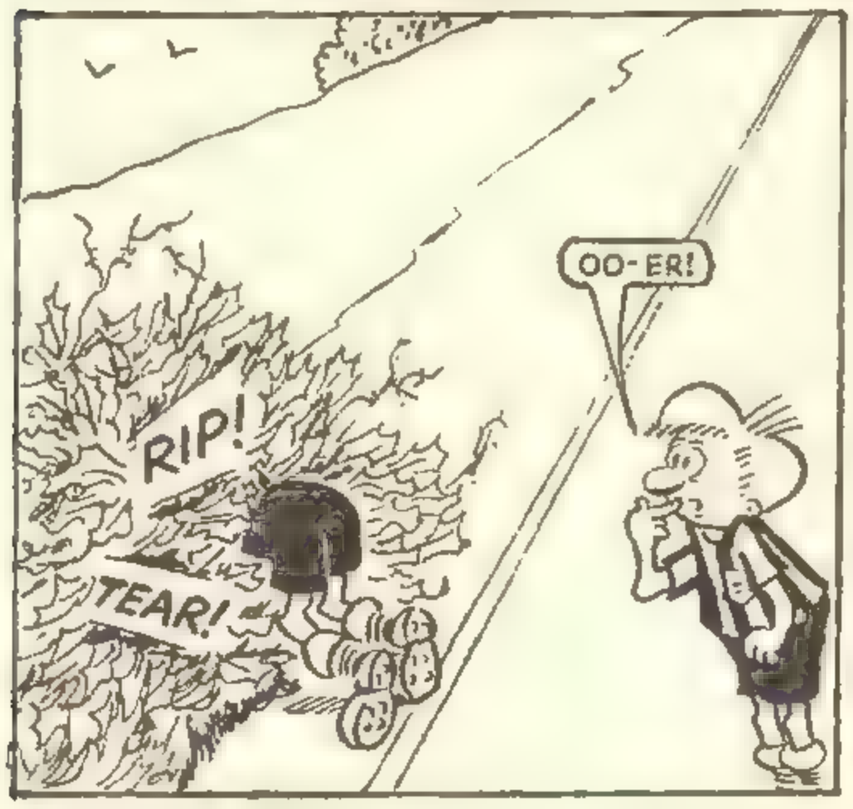
HAW-HAW-HAW!
WE'RE PLAYING HILLSIDE ROVERS— THEY'VE GOT THE MOST SLOPING PITCH IN THE LEAGUE, BUT OUR PRACTICE IS PAYING OFF!
SHOOT
GOAL!
PASS
GOAL!
BNO 15.10.83

# BALL BOY

WE'RE PLAYING AGAINST SCRUFF STREET UNITED TODAY.
COMB

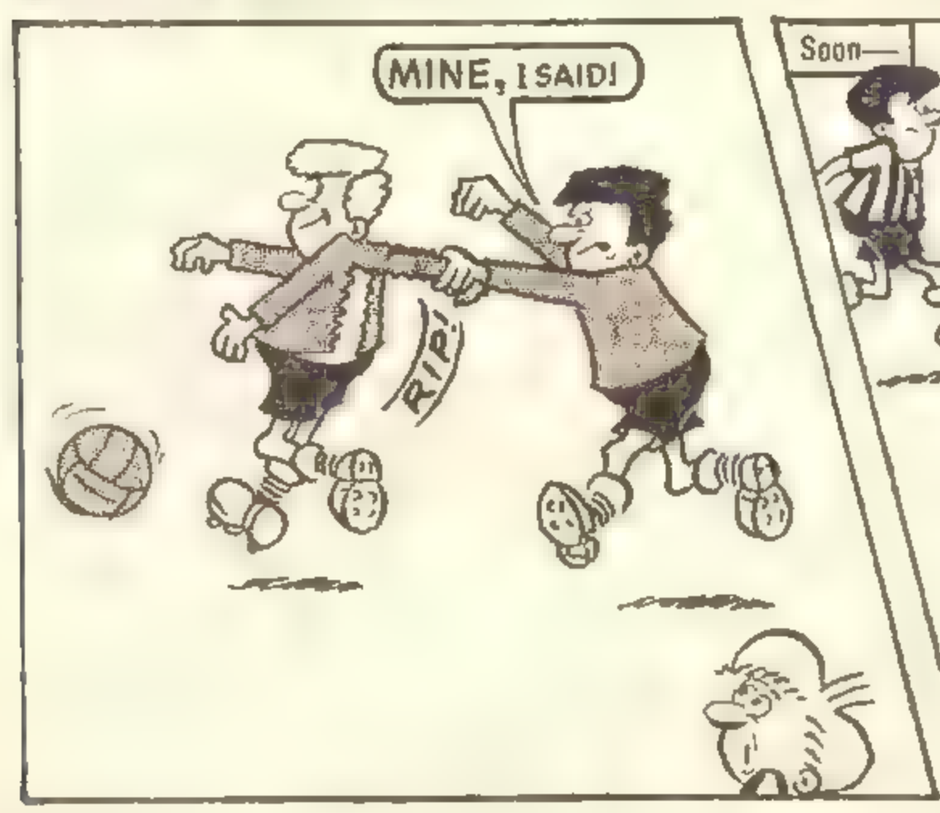

HMM! THEY DON'T LOOK TOO SCRUFFY SO FAR.

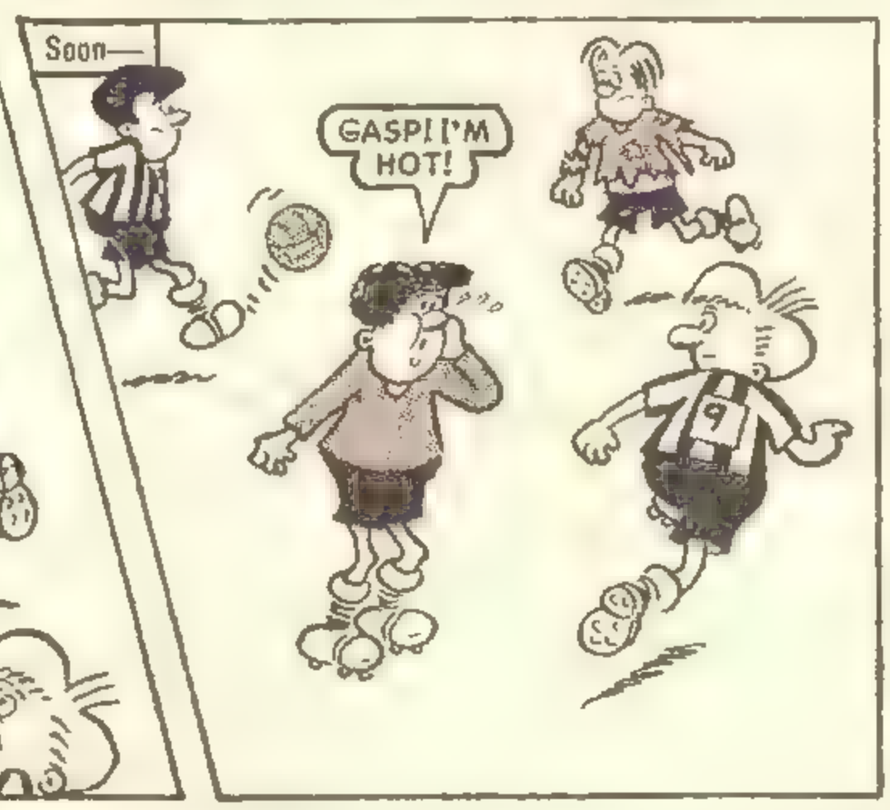

The game starts—
I'LL GET IT!
BOOT!


OO-ER!
RIP!
TEAR!

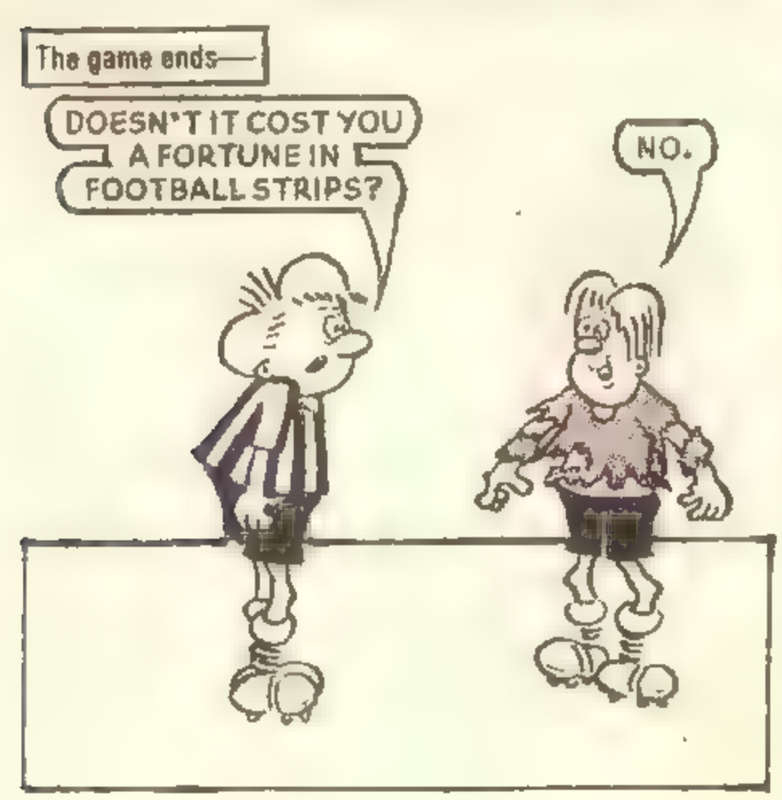
THEY'RE BEGINNING TO LIVE UP TO THEIR NAME!

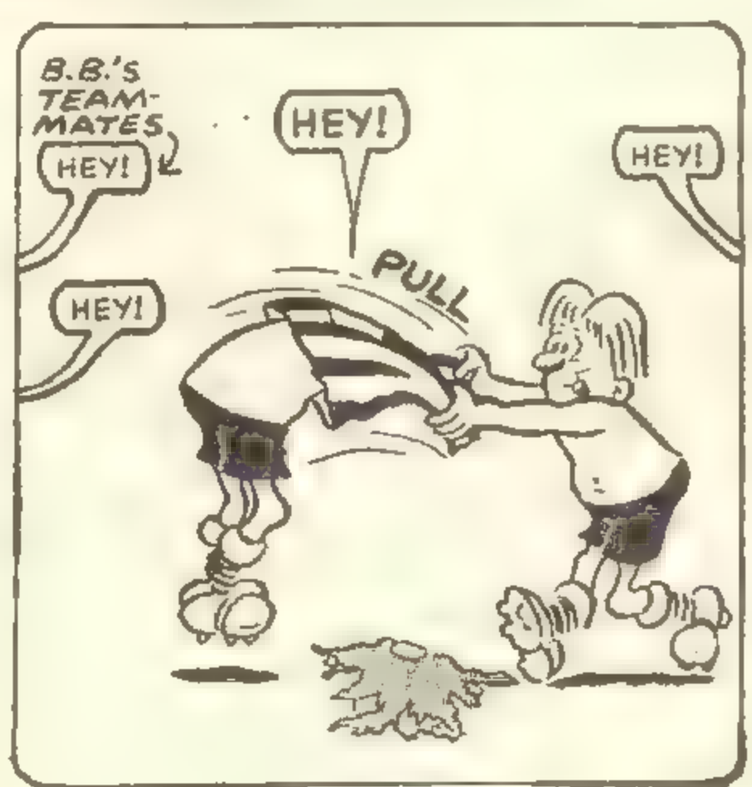
Soon—
MY BALL!
NO-MY BALL!


MINE, I SAID!
RIP!


Soon—
GASP! I'M HOT!

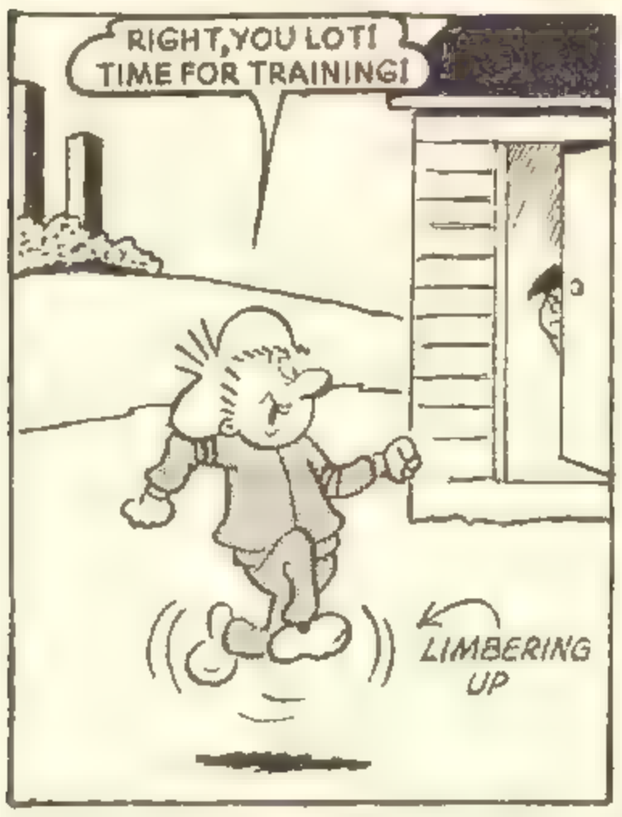
PHEW! THAT'S COOLER!
GASP! WHAT A RAGGED TEAM!
TEAR!


The game ends—
DOESN'T IT COST YOU A FORTUNE IN FOOTBALL STRIPS?
NO.


B.B.'S TEAM-MATES
HEY!
HEY!
HEY!
HEY!
PULL

GASP! THEY ALWAYS SWAP JERSEYS AFTER A GAME! COME BACK!
OUR JERSEYS! STOP!
HEH!
WE'LL WEAR THESE NEXT WEEK!
BNO 22 10 83

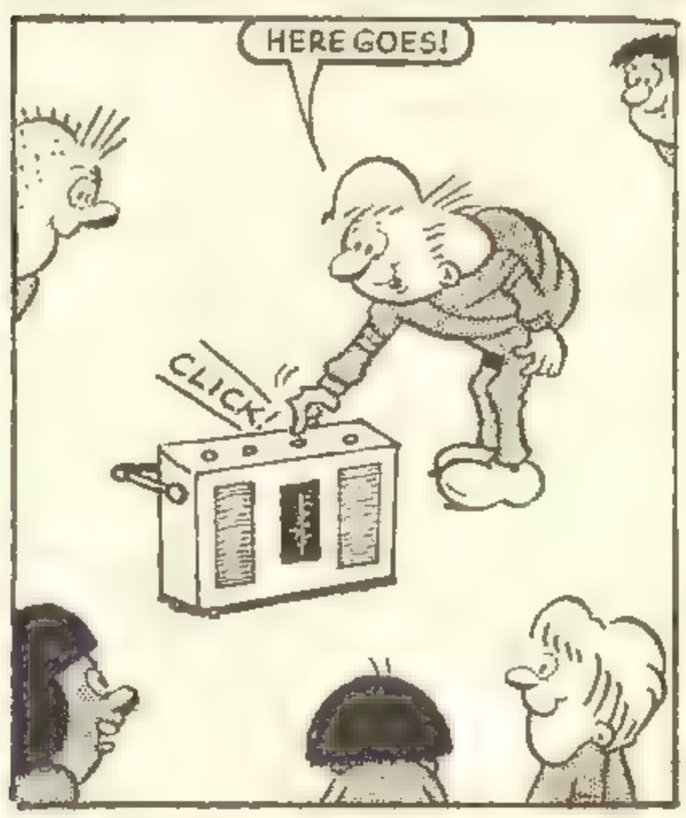
# BALL BOY


RIGHT, YOU LOT! TIME FOR TRAINING!
LIMBERING UP

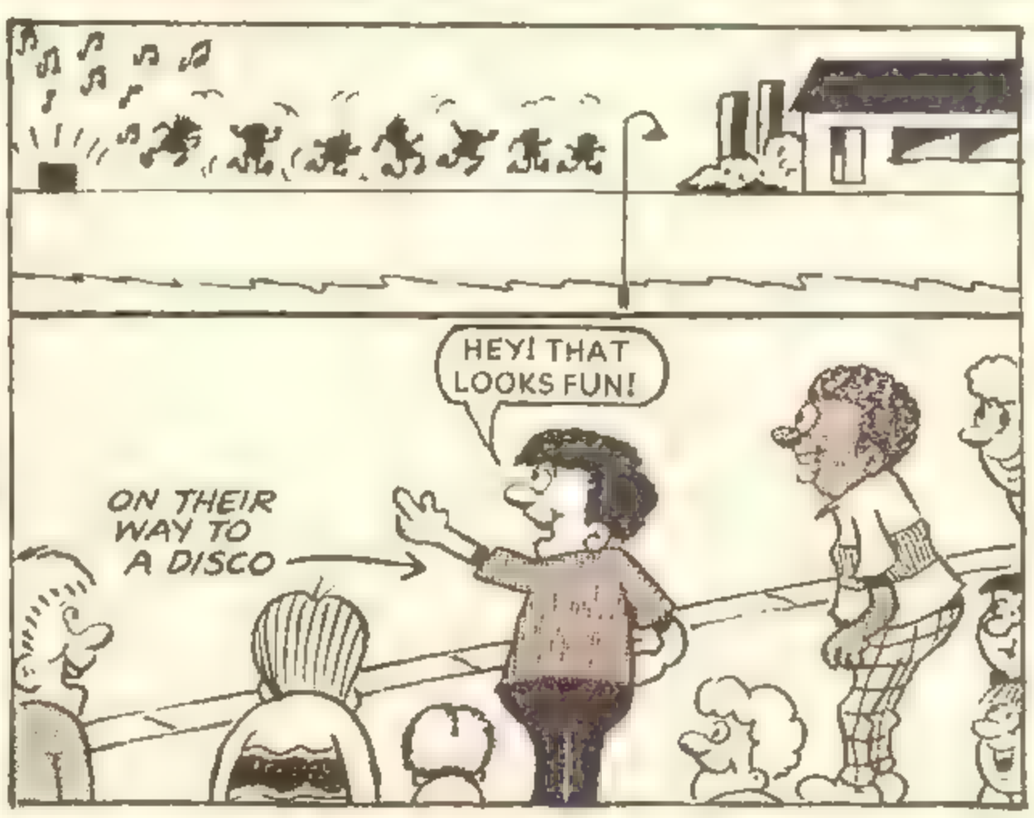
AW, B.B.! RUNNING ROUND THE PITCH IS BORING!

So in the dressing room—
BRIGHTER TRAINING

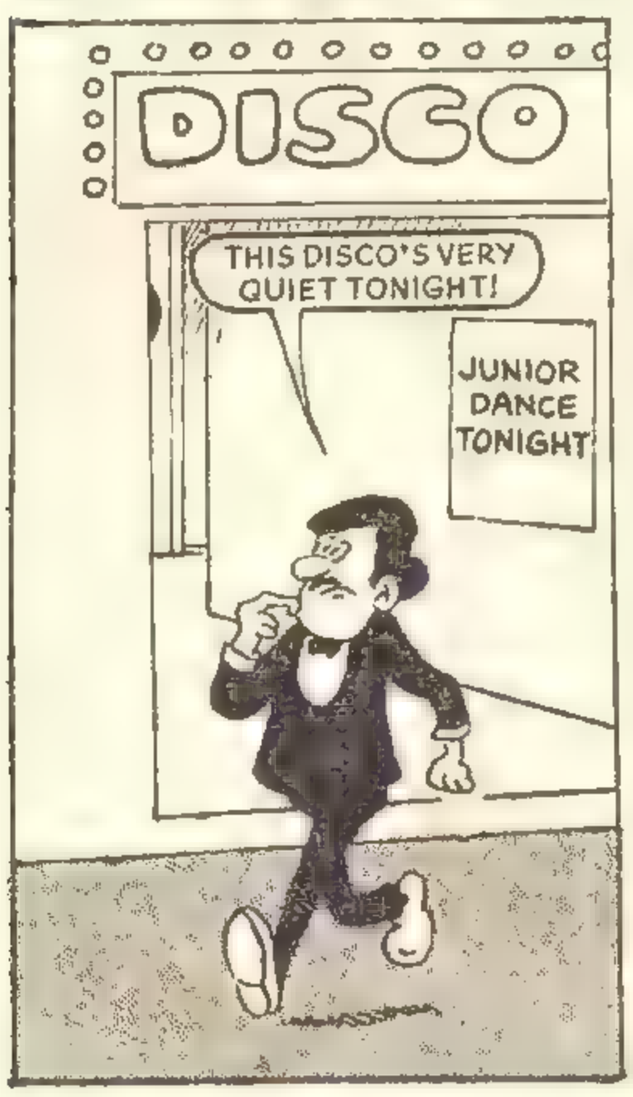
WOW! THE BRAZILIANS TRAIN TO DISCO MUSIC! OUR BOYS WOULD LIKE THAT!


HERE GOES!
CLICK!

WAGGLE


HEY! THAT LOOKS FUN!
ON THEIR WAY TO A DISCO

GREAT, MAN!
THIS IS GETTING SILLY!


DISCO
THIS DISCO'S VERY QUIET TONIGHT!
JUNIOR DANCE TONIGHT

FURY
NO WONDER—B.B.'S PINCHED MY CUSTOMERS!
SNARL! I DON'T PINCH YOUR PLAYERS!
GASP! NO WONDER THE BRAZILIANS ARE SO FIT! PANT!
BNO

# BALL BOY

I'LL HAVE A KICK-ABOUT!

OOPS! TOO HARD!
BOOT

LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT NUT!
WRONG

GASP! IT'S HEAVY—BUT IT SHOULD KEEP ME IN FOOD ALL WINTER!

Then—
WHERE CAN MY BALL BE?

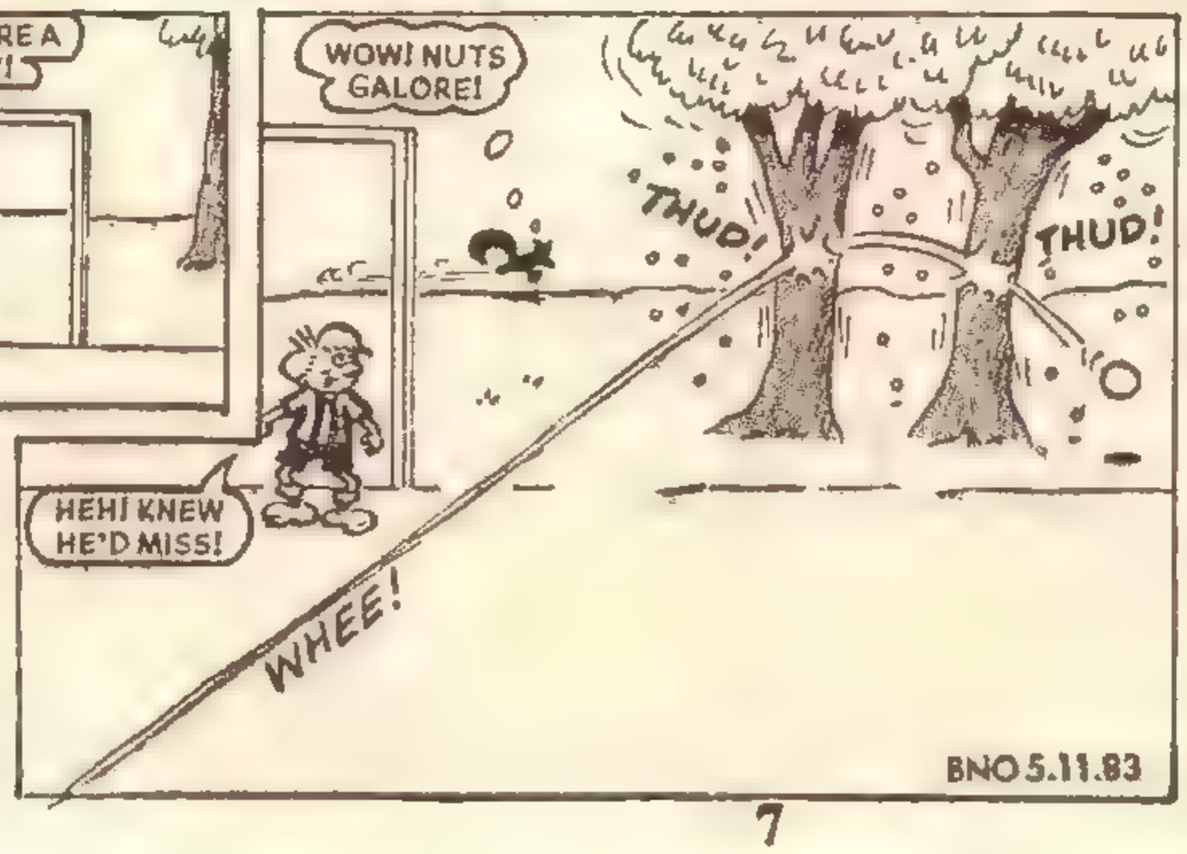
COULDN'T HAVE GONE IN THERE, COULD IT?

IT WAS IN THE HOLE—AMAZING!
THERE GOES MY CHRISTMAS DINNER—AFTER ALL MY WORK!

OOPS! THAT POOR OLD SQUIRREL MUST HAVE THOUGHT MY BALL WAS A GIANT NUT!
RAGE

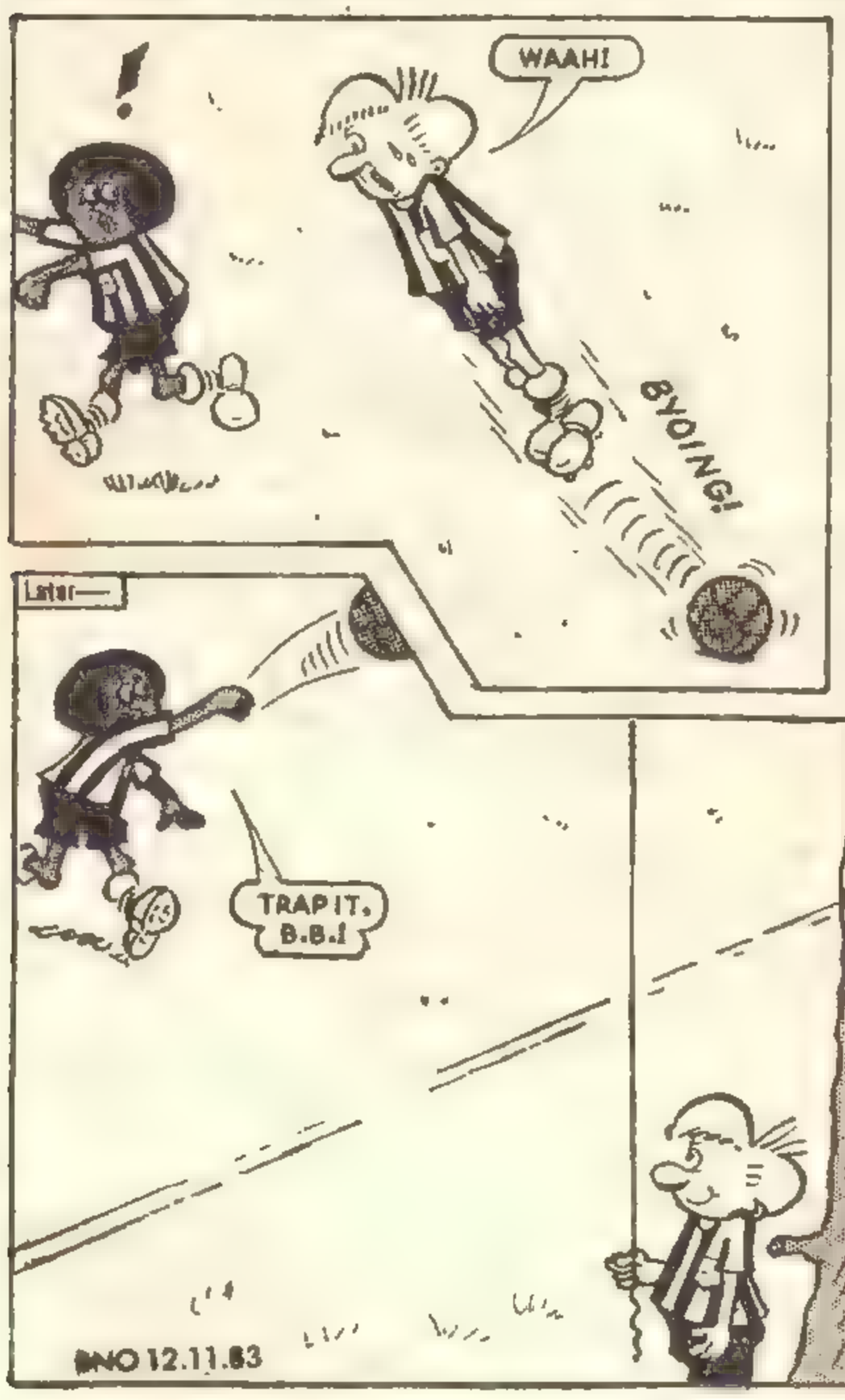
HI, B.B.!
HERE'S DIMMY—THE WORST SHOT IN OUR TEAM. MAYBE I CAN HELP THE SQUIRREL!

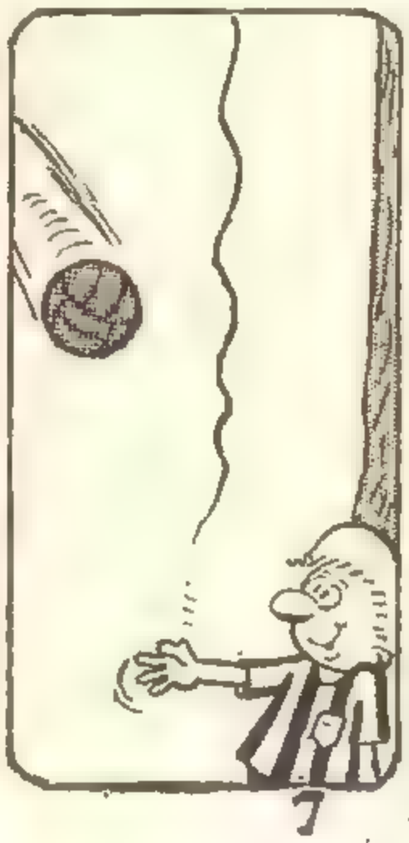
So—
SEE IF YOU CAN SCORE A PENALTY, DIMMY!
SIGH!
OK!


WOW! NUTS GALORE!
THUD!
THUD!
HEH! KNEW HE'D MISS!
WHEE!
BNO 5.11.83

HEH! YOUR ROTTEN SHOT'S GIVEN HIM PLENTY TO STORE FOR THE WINTER!
LOVELY NUTS!

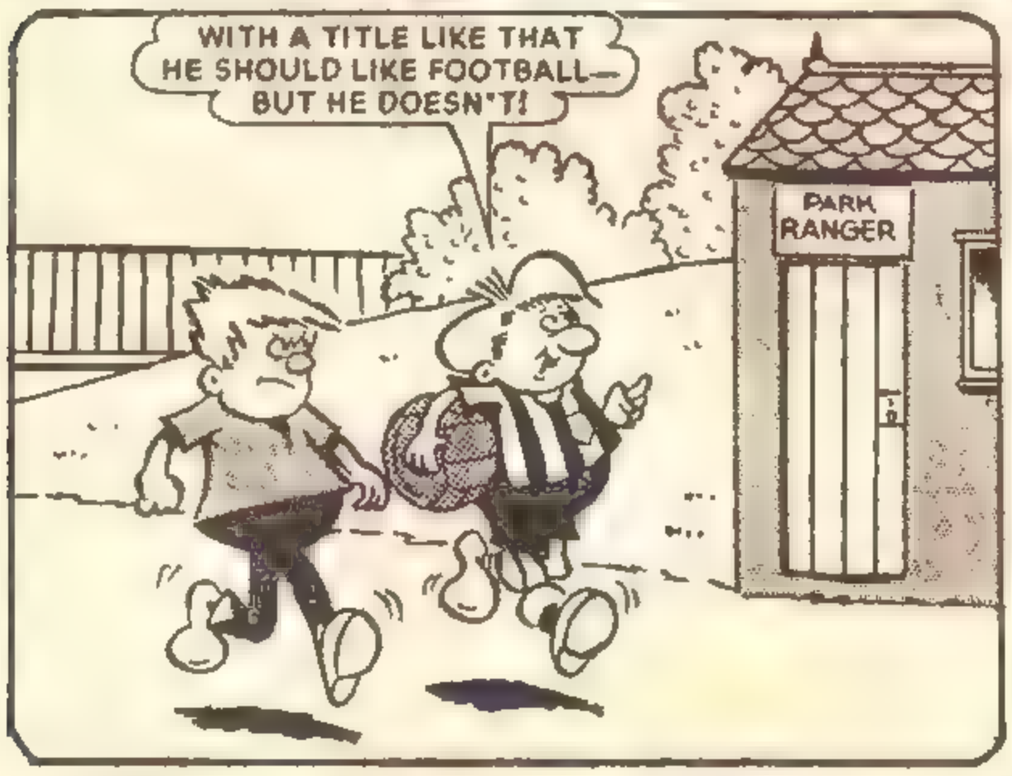
# BALL BOY

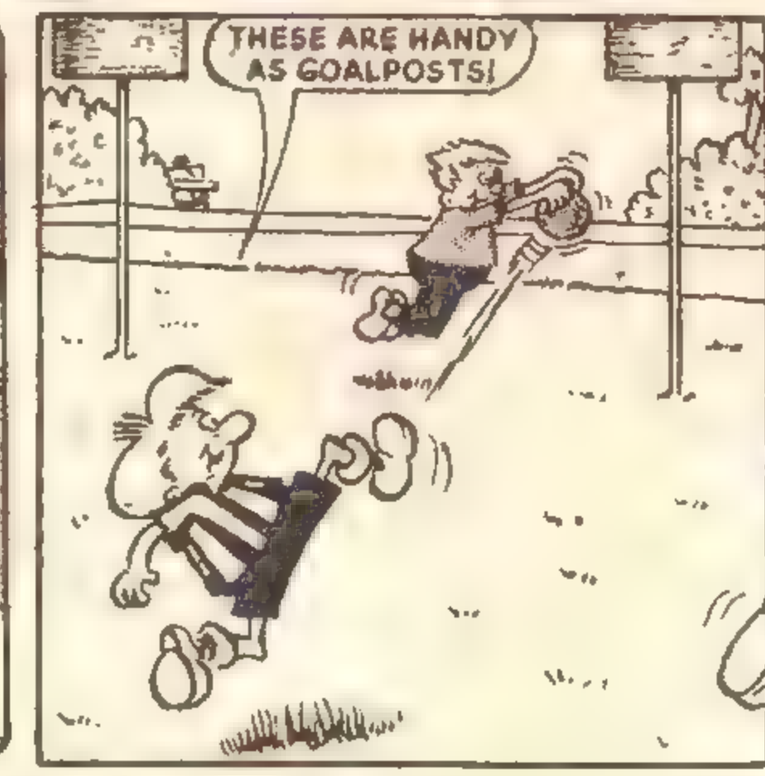


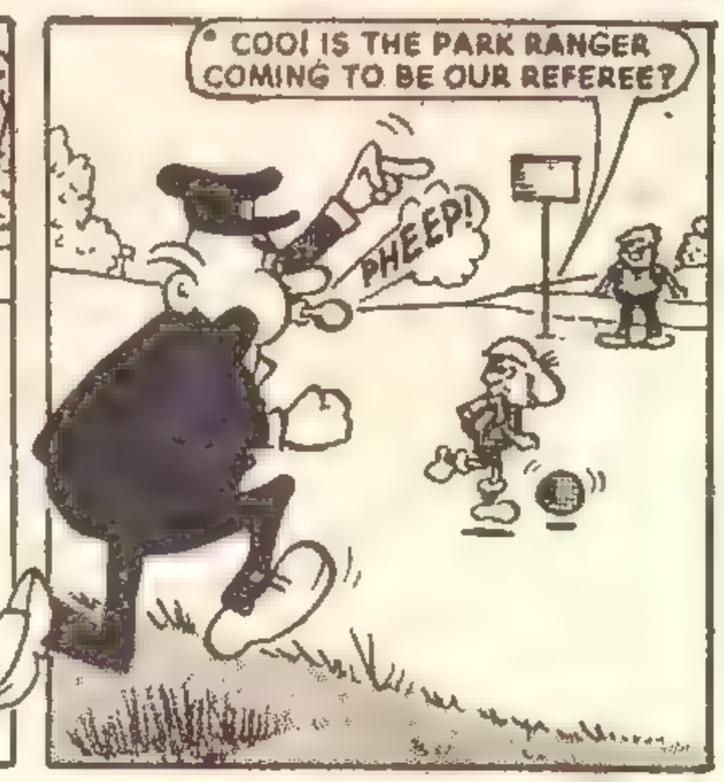


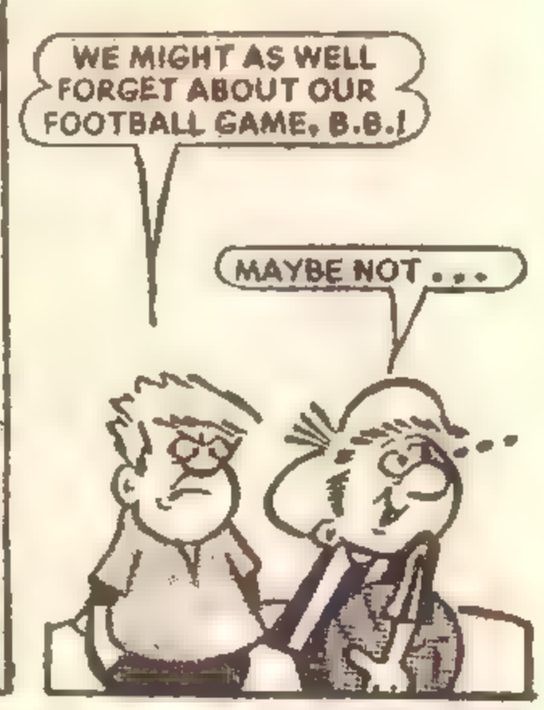
BNO 12.11.83

# BALL BOY



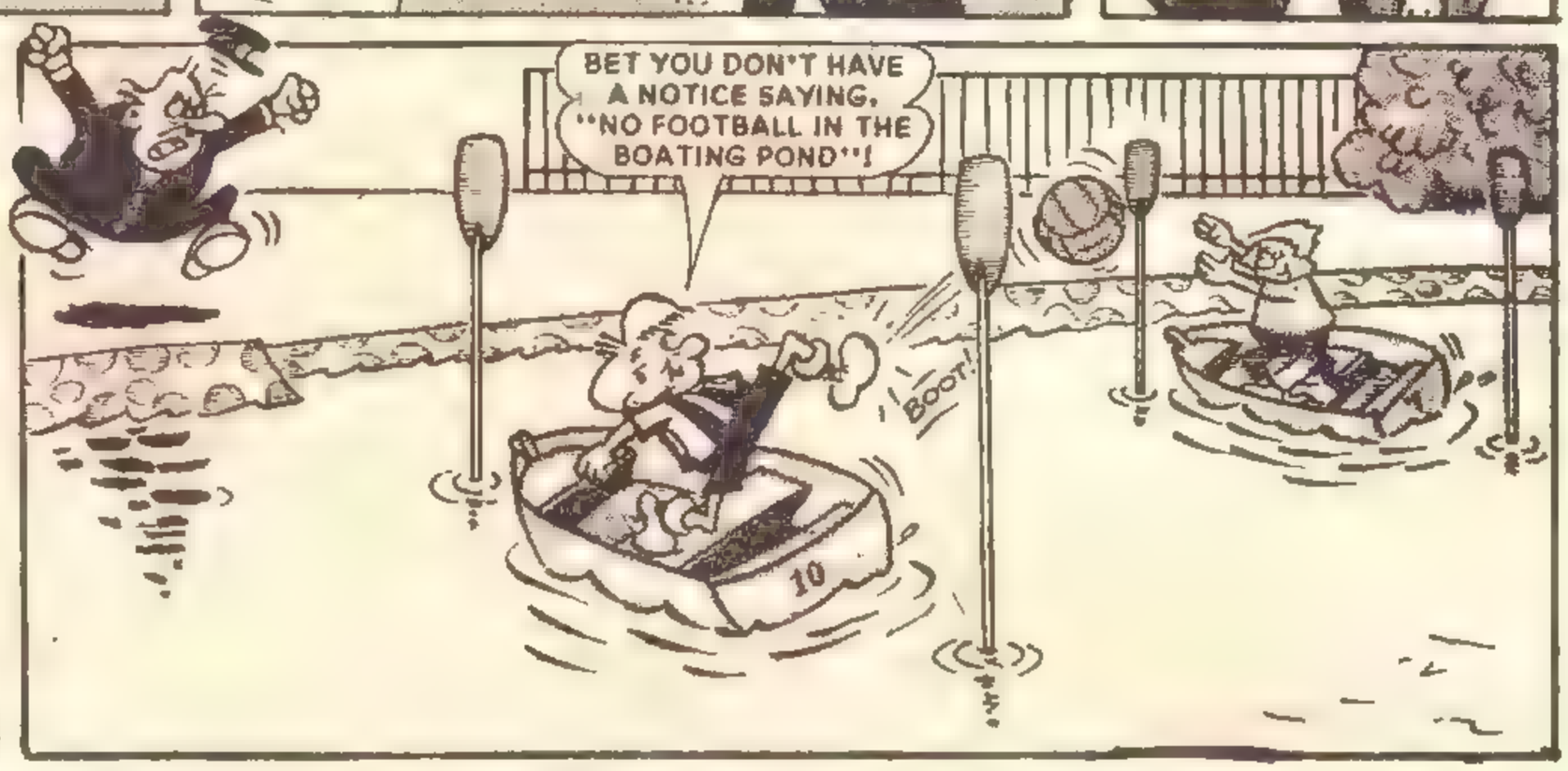





GOAL!

SHOOT!




BNO 19.11.83

# BALL BOY

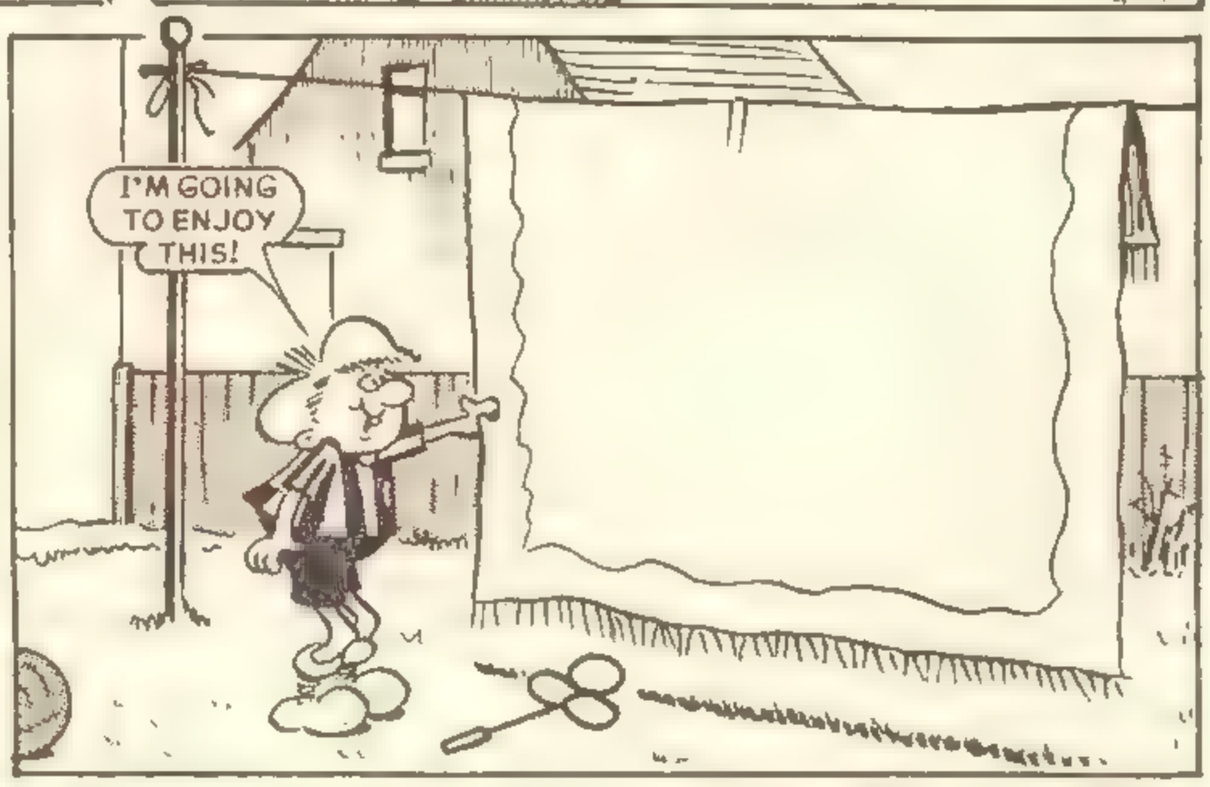
HI. FANS! I'M GOING TO HAVE SOME SHOOTING PRACTICE TODAY!
BOMPH!
BOMPH!

ERK! THE KEEPER SNATCHES THE BALL OFF B.B.'S HEAD!

NEVER MIND THE FOOTBALL—YOU PROMISED TO BEAT THE CARPET FOR ME TODAY!
AW, MUM!

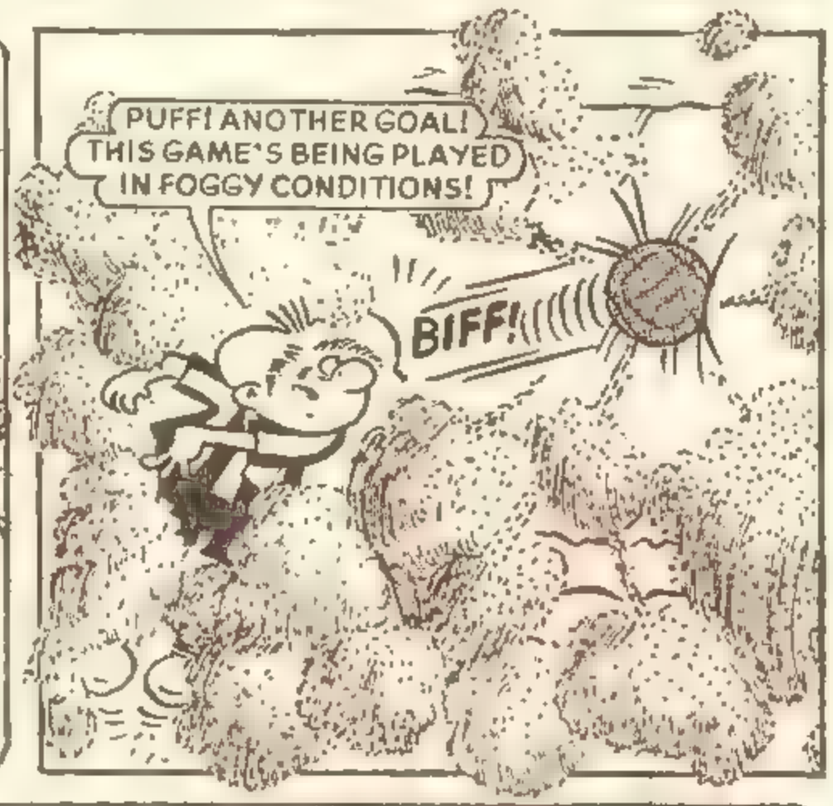
HELLO, ROGER! GOOD! I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD HELP ME WITH A DODGE . . .

And—
. . . OF COURSE! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?


I'M GOING TO ENJOY THIS!

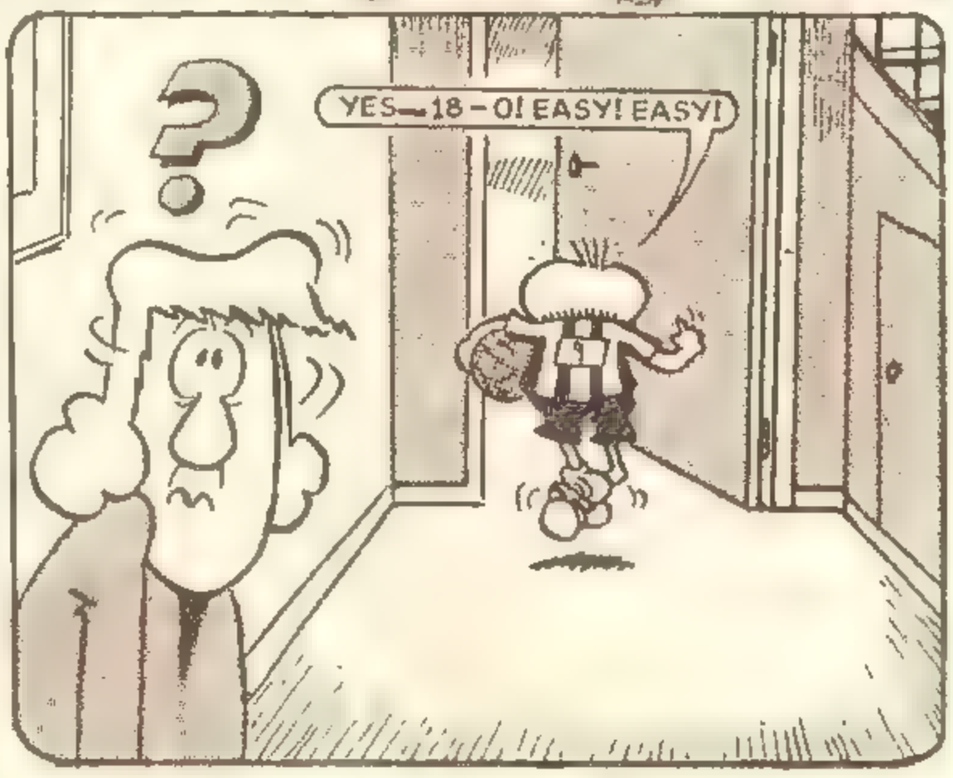
. . . AND THE WHISTLE BLOWS FOR THE BIG KICK-OFF!
PHEEP!
BAKER!

1—0 ALREADY!
THUD!


PUFF! ANOTHER GOAL! THIS GAME'S BEING PLAYED IN FOGGY CONDITIONS!
BIFF!

THERE GOES THE FULL-TIME WHISTLE! GREAT GAME!
PHEEP!

WELL, DID YOU BEAT MY CARPET?
BNO 26.11.83


?
YES—18 – 0! EASY! EASY!

# BALL BOY

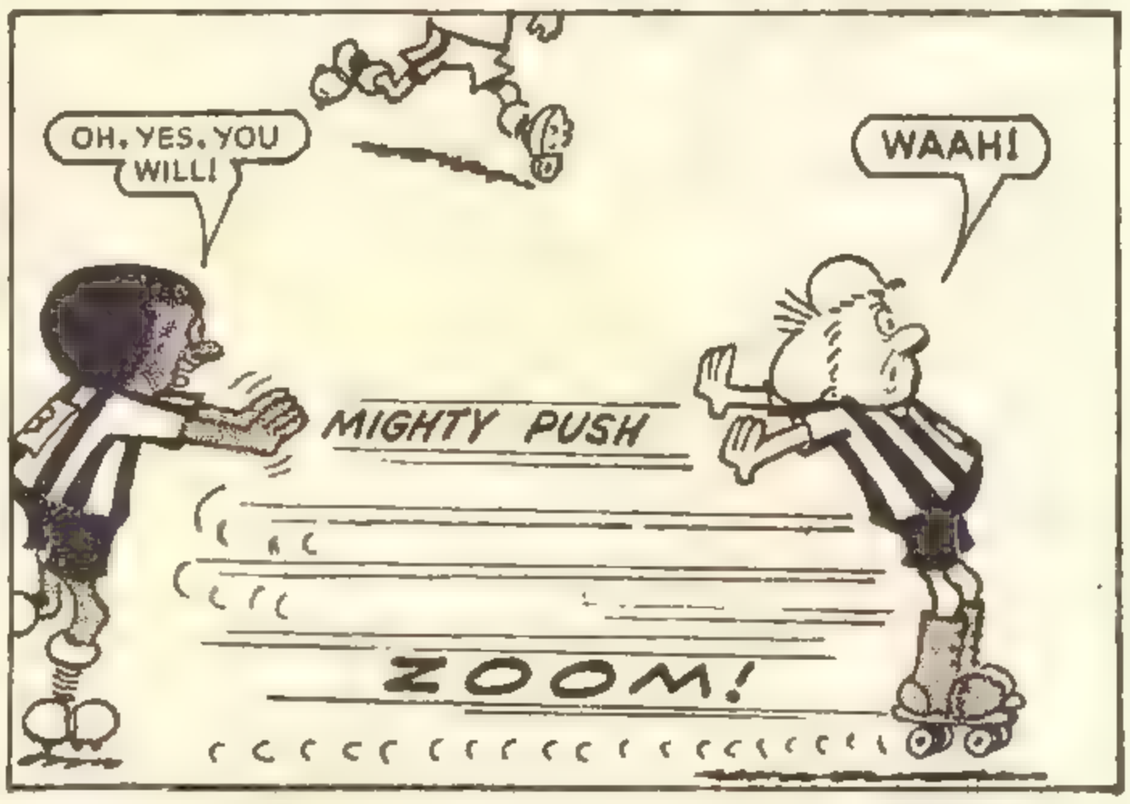
PACK MY BOOTS FOR ME, MUM. NO-ONE WILL CATCH ME TODAY—I'M RARING TO GO!
RIGHTO, SON.

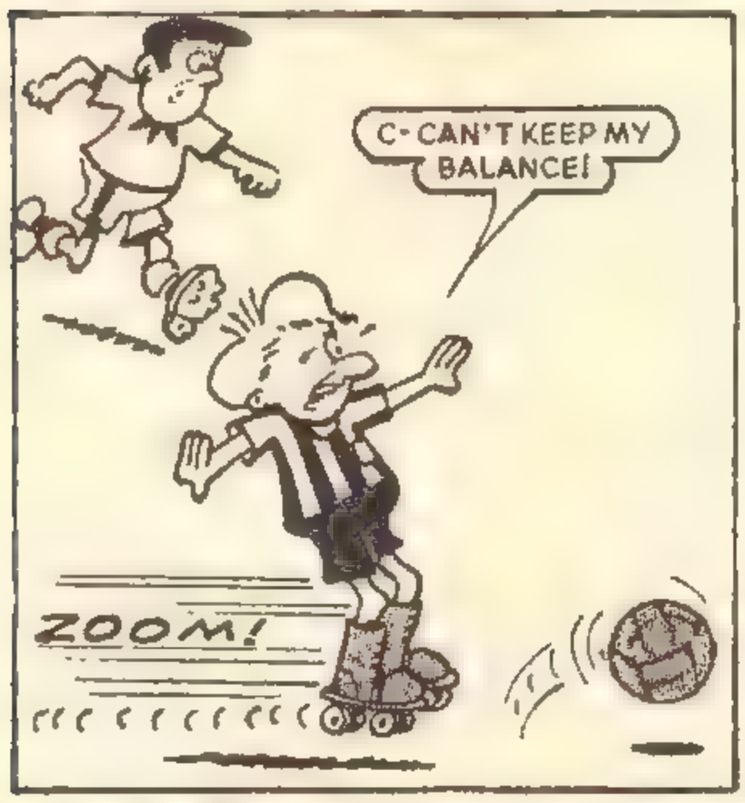
In the dressing room—
OH, NO . . .
B.B.

. . . MUM'S PACKED MY ROLLER SKATING BOOTS!

AH, WELL—AT LEAST THE GROUND'S HARD AND FROSTY.

Soon—
BOOT!
I'LL NEVER GET TO THAT PASS!

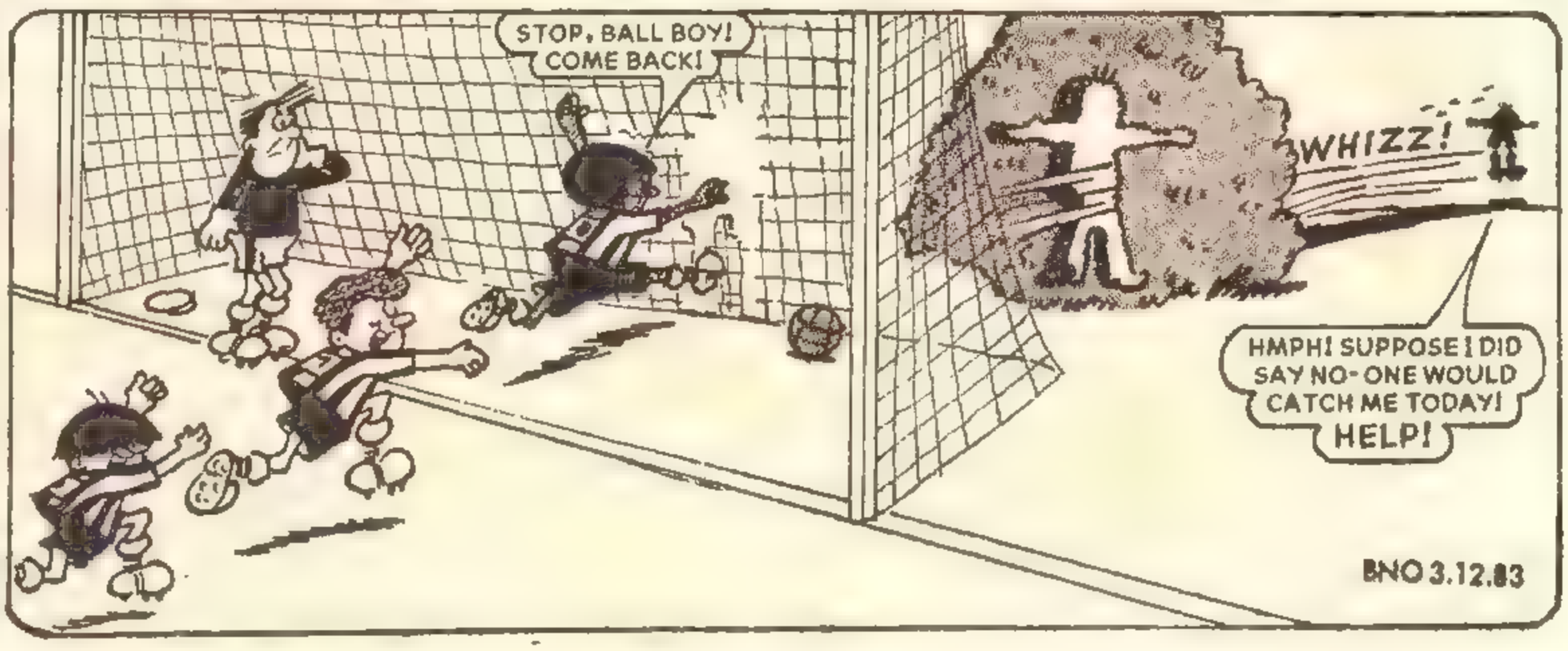

OH, YES, YOU WILL!
WAAH!
MIGHTY PUSH
ZOOM!


C-CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE!
ZOOM!

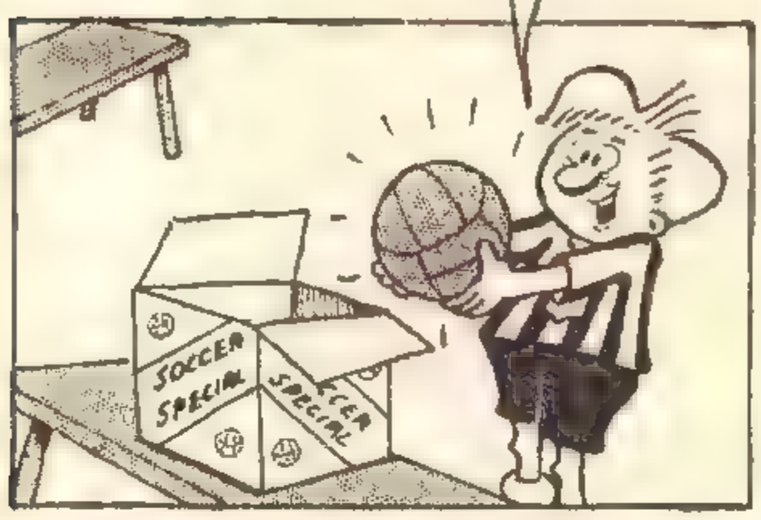
I'M S-STARTING TO G-GO!
WHEE!

GASP!
OOPS!
ACCIDENTAL KICK

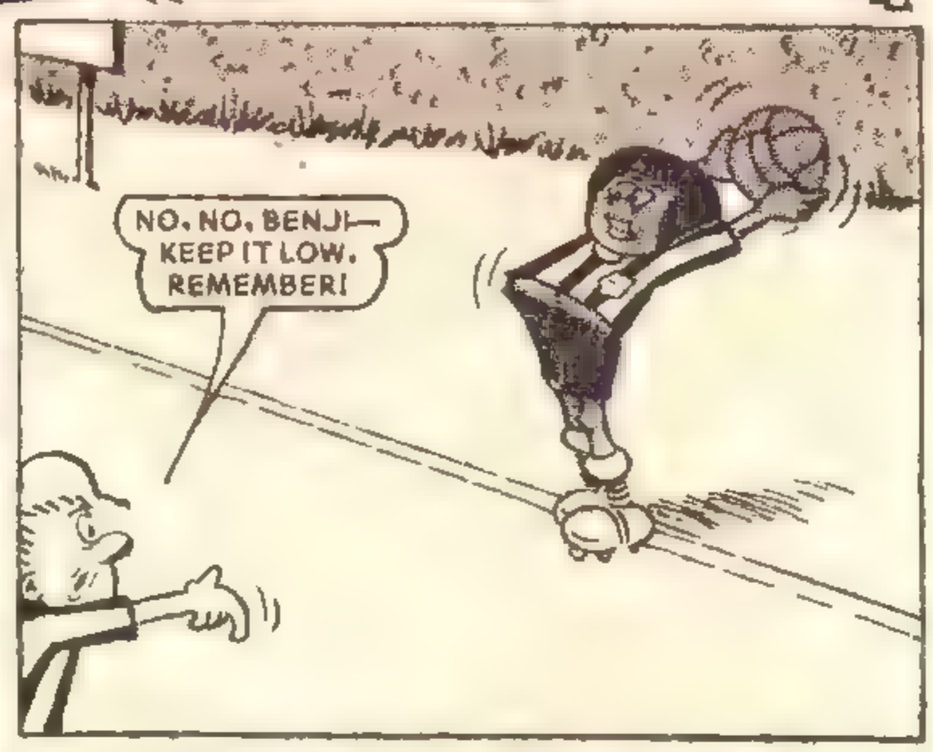
GREAT GOAL, B.B.! CONGRATULATIONS!

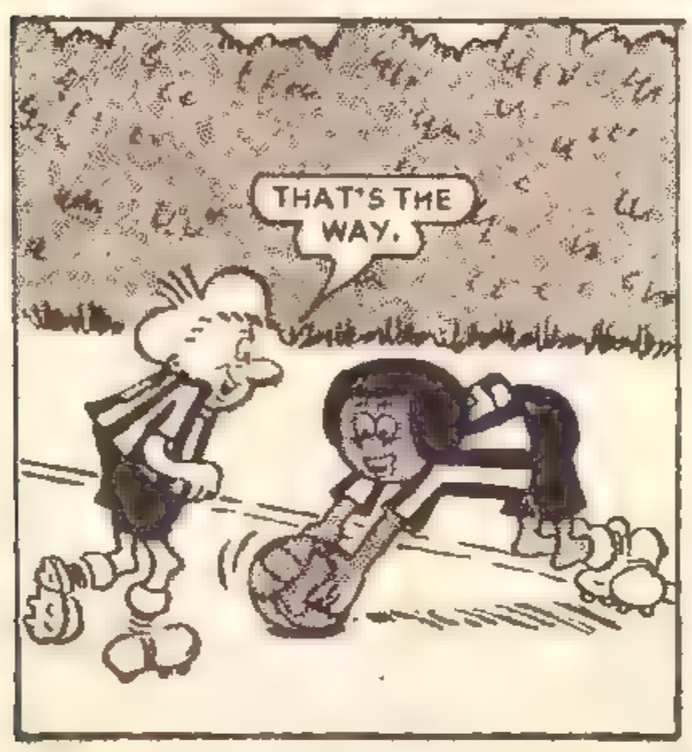

STOP, BALL BOY! COME BACK!
WHIZZ!
HMPH! SUPPOSE I DID SAY NO-ONE WOULD CATCH ME TODAY! HELP!
BNO 3.12.83

# BALL BOY

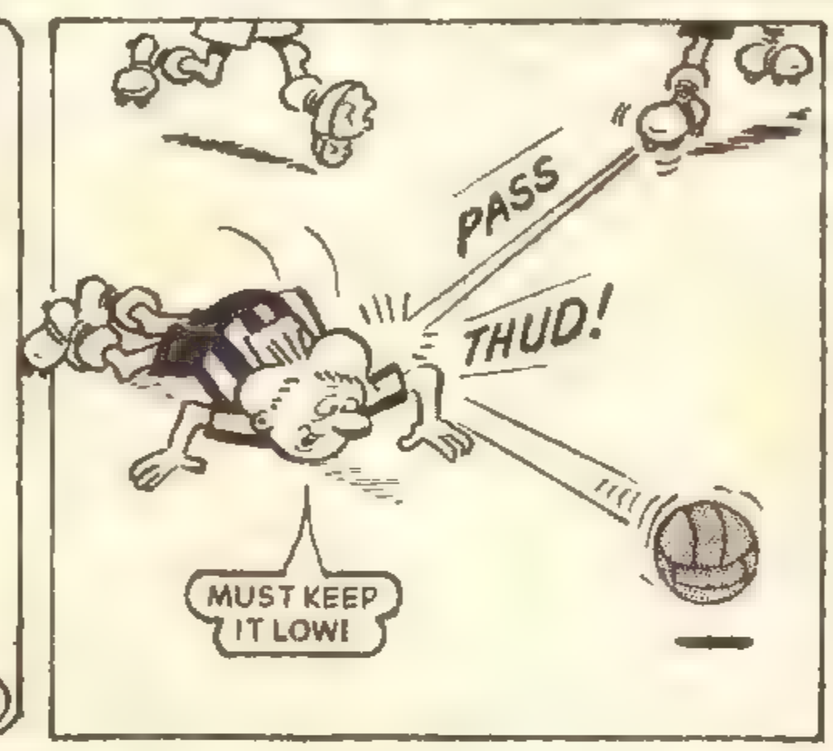

WE'RE PLAYING WITH A BRAND NEW BALL TODAY.
SOCCER SPECIAL
SOCCER SPECIAL

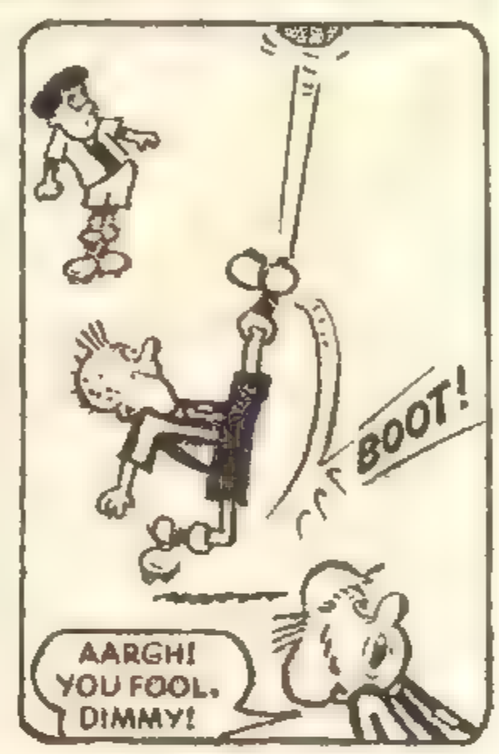
OUR THROW-IN.
MIS-HEADER


NO, NO, BENJI— KEEP IT LOW. REMEMBER!


THAT'S THE WAY.

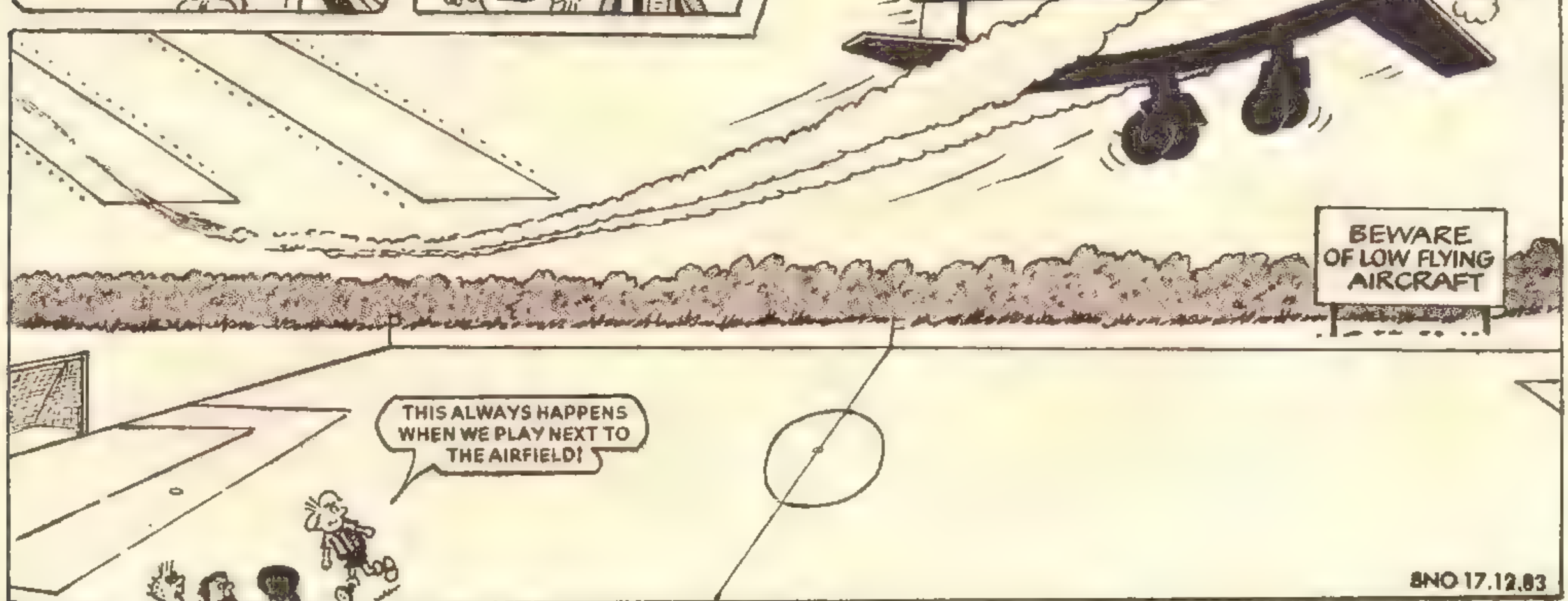
TO MY HEAD, CHARLIE!


PASS
THUD!
MUST KEEP IT LOW!


BOOT!
AARGH! YOU FOOL, DIMMY!

WHAT A DISASTER!

WE'VE NO BALL NOW. I KNEW SOMEONE WOULD FORGET TO KEEP IT LOW.


BEWARE OF LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT
THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS WHEN WE PLAY NEXT TO THE AIRFIELD!
SNO 17.12.83

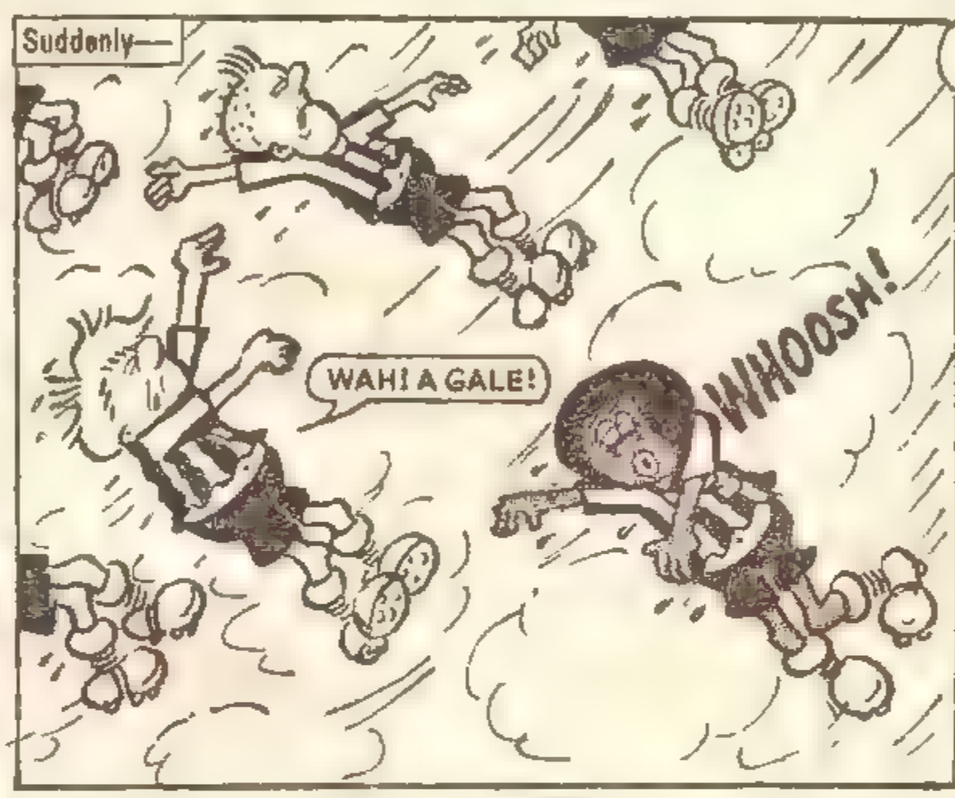
# BALL BOY

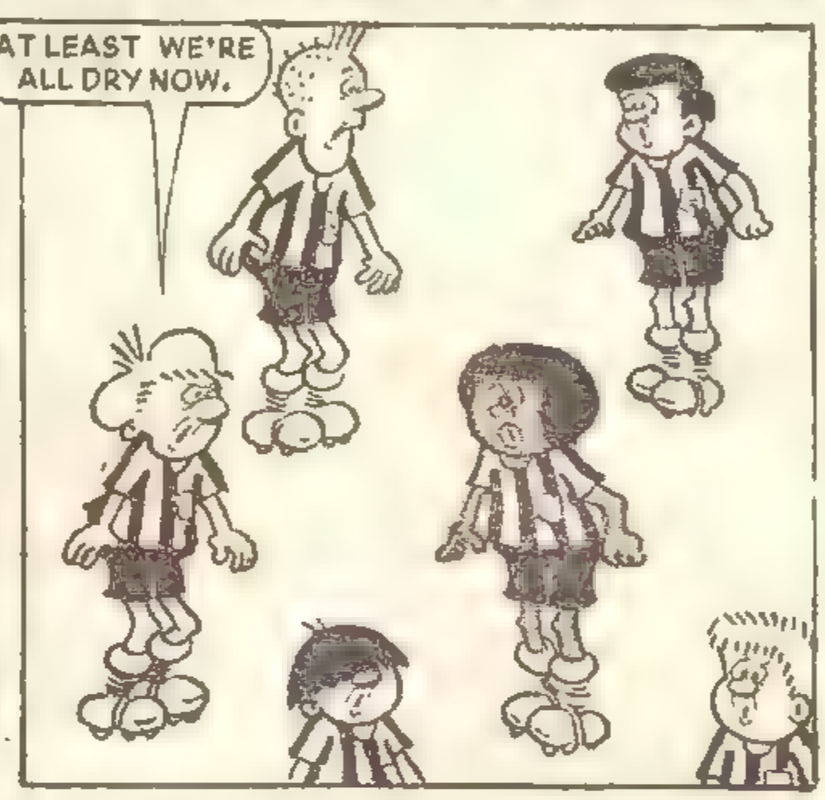
WE'RE TRYING OUT THE NEW PITCH TODAY.

IT FEELS OK.
BUMP! BUMP!

Then—
GLUB!
WHAT A RAIN-STORM!
GLUB!

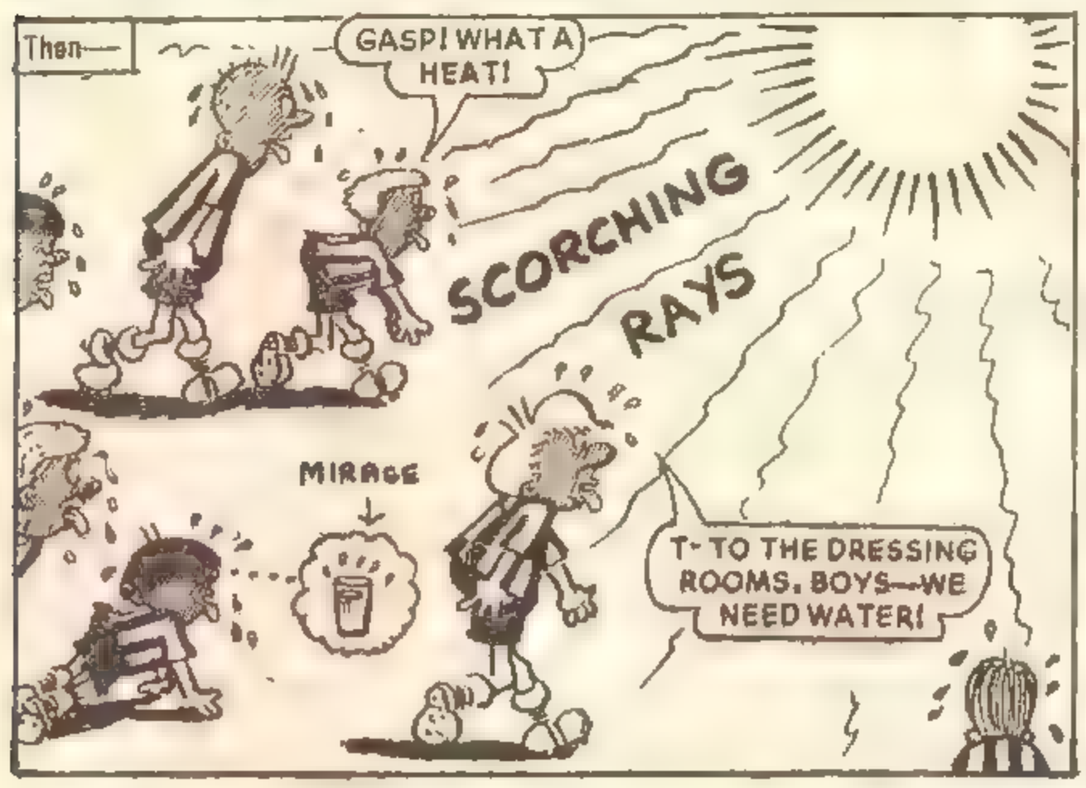
GASP! WE NEARLY DROWNED THERE!

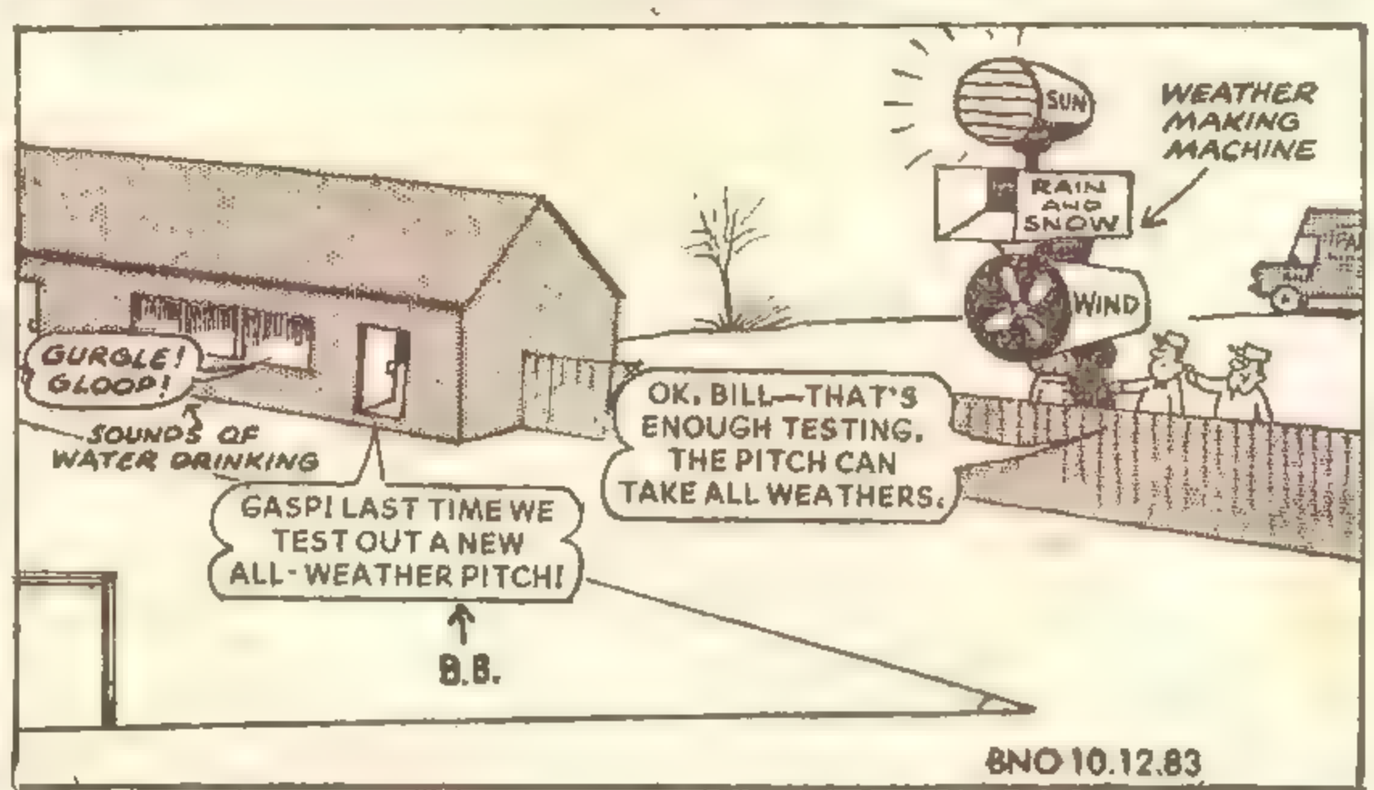

Suddenly—
WAH! A GALE!
WHOOSH!


AT LEAST WE'RE ALL DRY NOW.

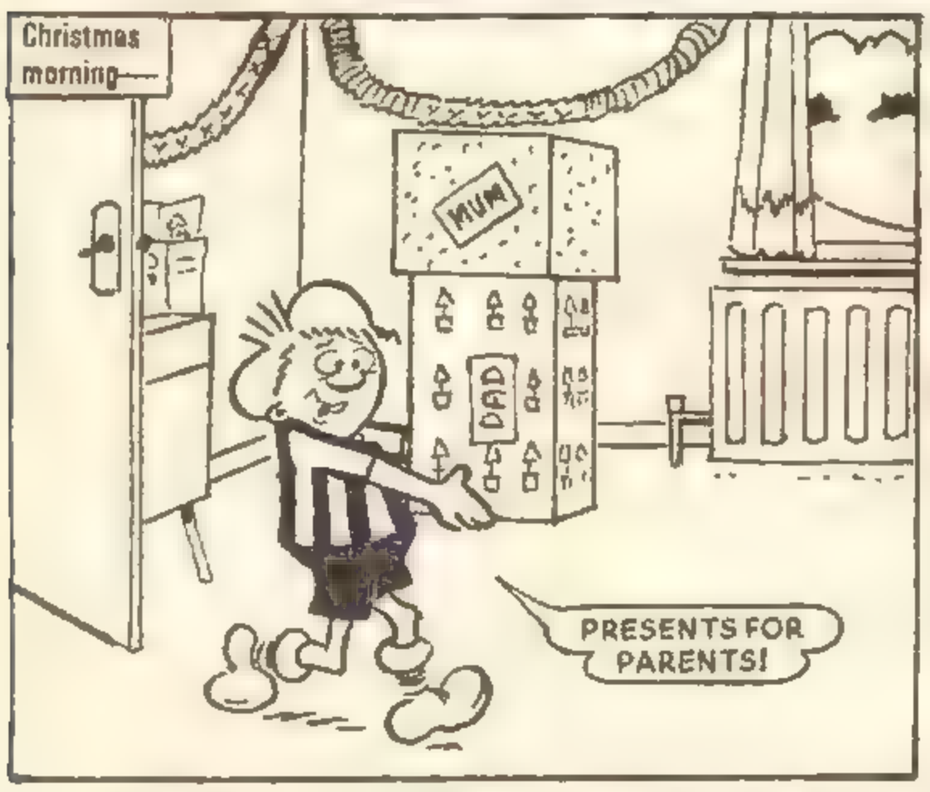
Then—
BRR!
ERK! A BLIZZARD!
SHIVER!

BRR! WE'RE FREEZING!


Then—
GASP! WHAT A HEAT!
SCORCHING RAYS
MIRAGE
T-TO THE DRESSING ROOMS, BOYS—WE NEED WATER!

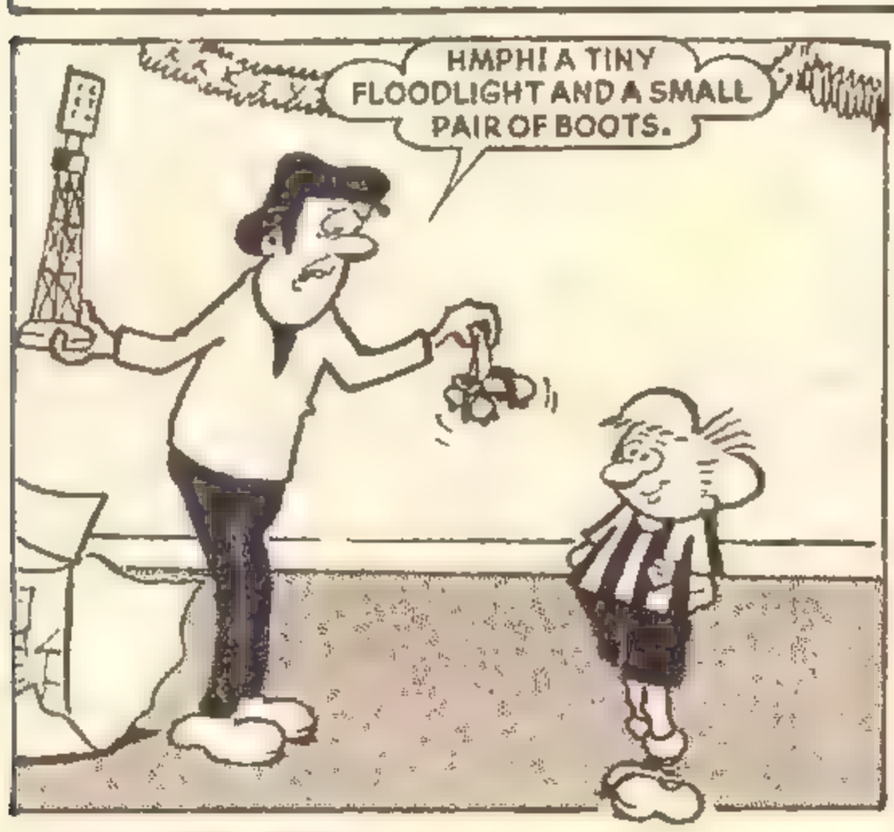

SUN
WEATHER MAKING MACHINE
RAIN AND SNOW
WIND
GURGLE! GLOOP!
SOUNDS OF WATER DRINKING
OK, BILL—THAT'S ENOUGH TESTING. THE PITCH CAN TAKE ALL WEATHERS.
GASP! LAST TIME WE TEST OUT A NEW ALL-WEATHER PITCH!
B.B.
BNO 10.12.83

# BALL BOY

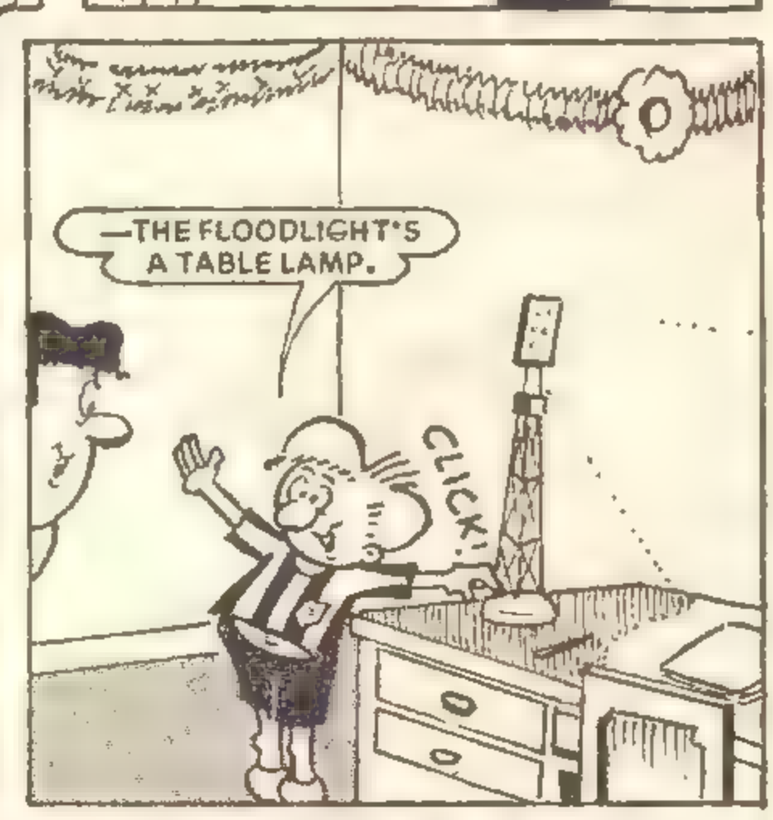

Christmas morning—
MUM
DAD
PRESENTS FOR PARENTS!

GASP! WHAT WOULD I WANT WITH A FOOTBALL?
MUM
DAD

NOTHING, MUM—BUT THIS IS A NOVELTY HANDBAG!
OH, LOVELY!
ZIP


HMPH! A TINY FLOODLIGHT AND A SMALL PAIR OF BOOTS.

DAFT DAD—
?

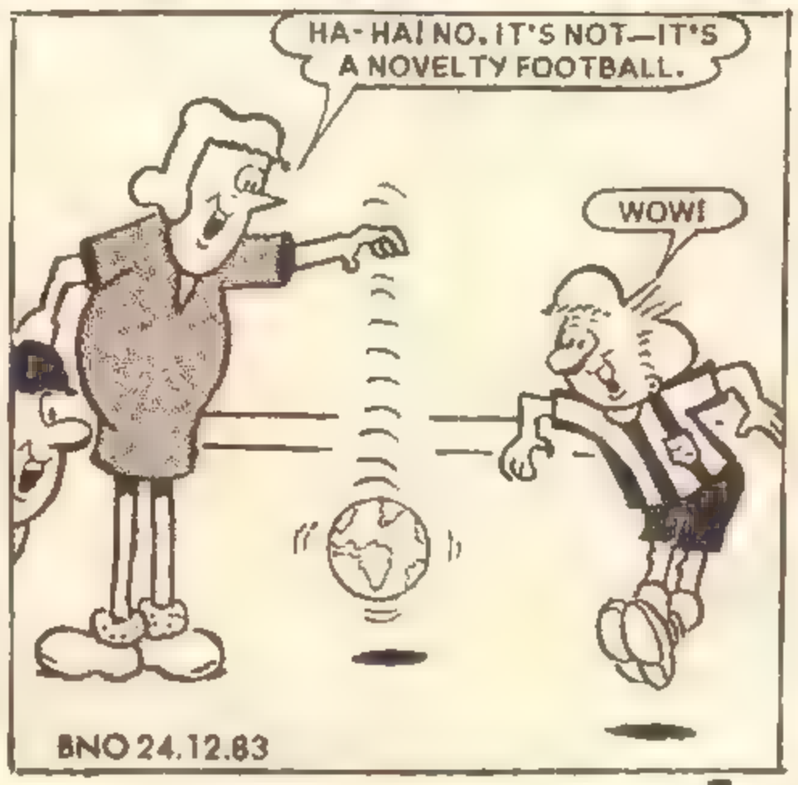

—THE FLOODLIGHT'S A TABLE LAMP.
CLICK!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BOOTS—THEY WON'T FIT ME.
THEY'RE NOT MEANT TO...

...THEY'RE FOR HANGING IN YOUR CAR.
I SEE!

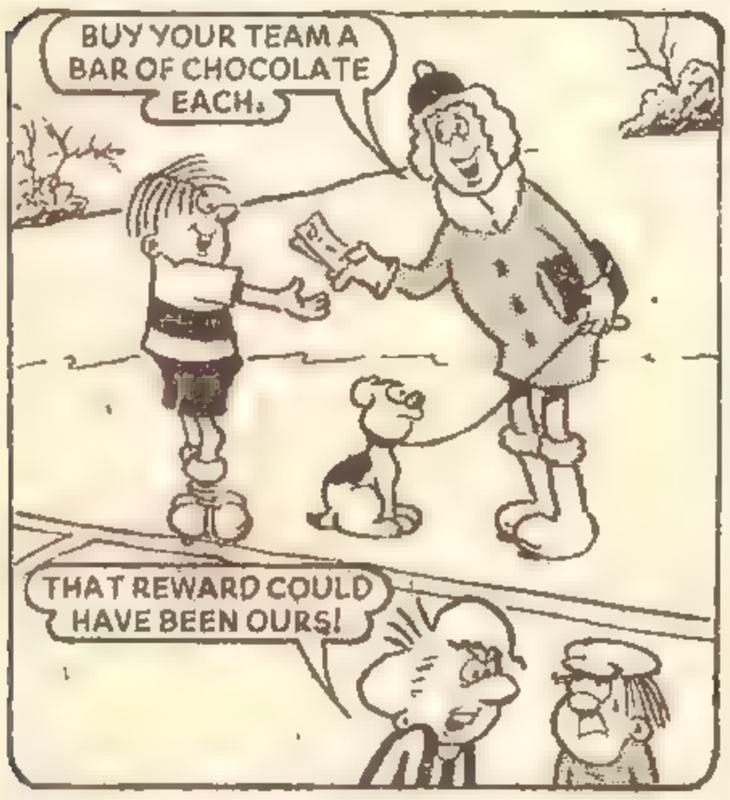
MY TURN NOW.

BAH! A GLOBE!

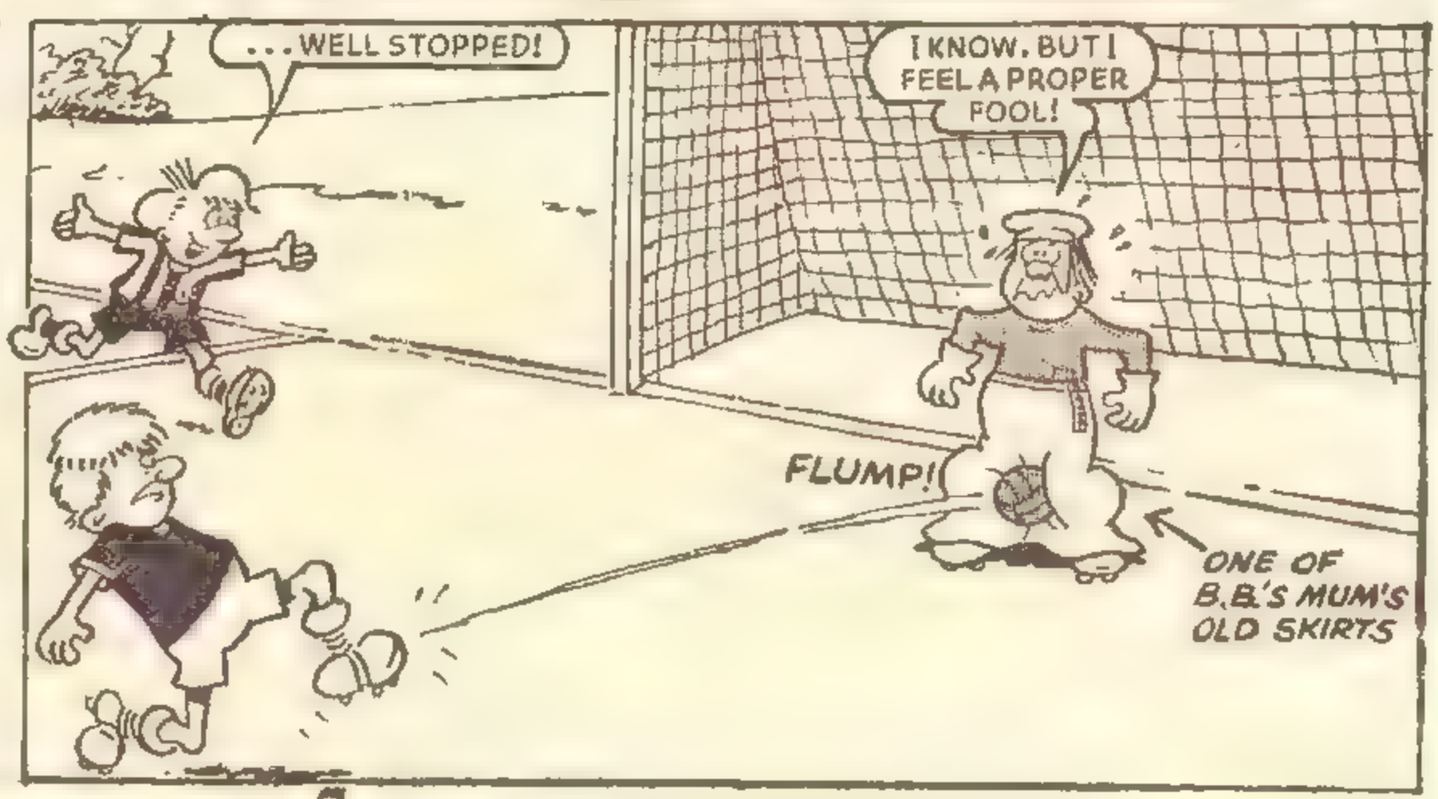

HA-HA! NO. IT'S NOT—IT'S A NOVELTY FOOTBALL.
WOW!
BNO 24.12.83

IT'LL BE NEW YEAR BEFORE HE OPENS THE REST OF HIS PRESENTS! MERRY CHRISTMAS, READERS!
BOOT!

# BALL BOY

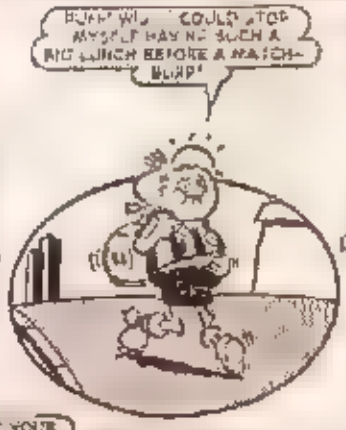


BNO 31.12.83



# BALL BOY

CHOMP! WHAT'S FOR AFTERS, MUM?
SIGH! THAT'S MY TEAM-MATE HELP ME—WHAT AN APPETITE!

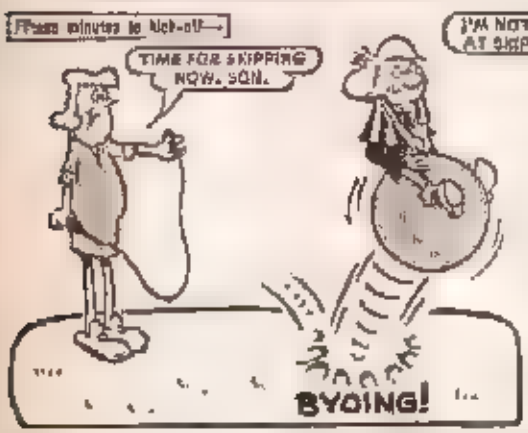

BURP! WHO COULD STOP MYSELF HAVING SUCH A BIG LUNCH BEFORE A MATCH—BURP!

On the pitch—
I KNOW WHAT'S MAKING B.B. SO SLOW. HE'S BEEN EATING TOO MUCH BEFORE THE MATCH—AGAIN.
PUFF! PANT!
DEAD SLOW

Next match day—
NO BIG MEALS BEFORE TODAY'S MATCH, MUM, OR MY TEAM-MATES WILL BE FURIOUS!
WE'VE GOT TO KEEP YOUR MIND OFF FOOD BEFORE THE NEXT MATCH. I'VE A PLAN.

An hour before kick-off—
ROLLING, BOUNCING AND KIPPERING FOR THE NEXT HOUR WILL KEEP YOUR MIND OFF FOOD.
GREAT IDEA!

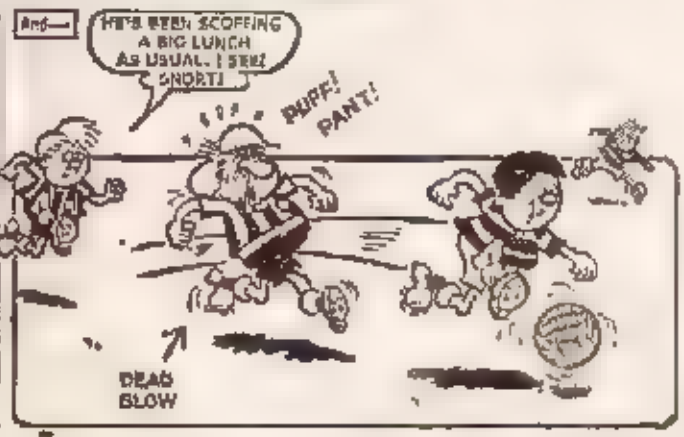
BEFORE HE GETS BORED WITH ROLLING I'LL PUT HIM ON TO THE BOUNCED BALL.


Fifteen minutes to kick-off—
TIME FOR SKIPPING NOW, SON.
BYOING!

I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT SKIPPING, MUM.
IT'S EASY—HERE—I'LL SHOW YOU.

SALT, MUSTARD, VINEGAR, PEPPER.

THAT REMINDS ME—IT'S SALAD AND CHIPS FOR LUNCH!

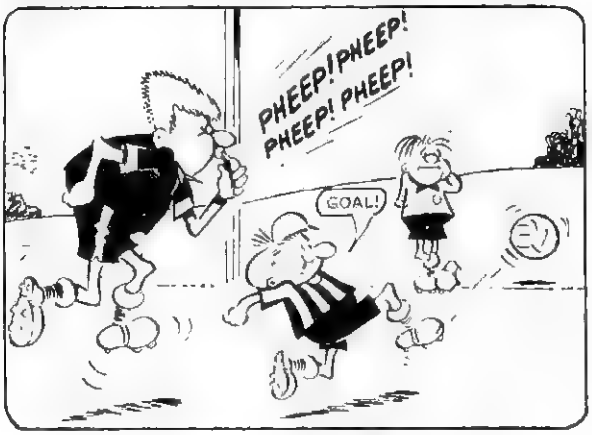

And—
HE'S BEEN SCOFFING A BIG LUNCH AS USUAL. I SEE! SNORT!
PUFF! PANT!
DEAD SLOW

# BALL BOY

MUST HAVE A BIT OF A COLD TODAY—I CAN'T HEAR A THING!

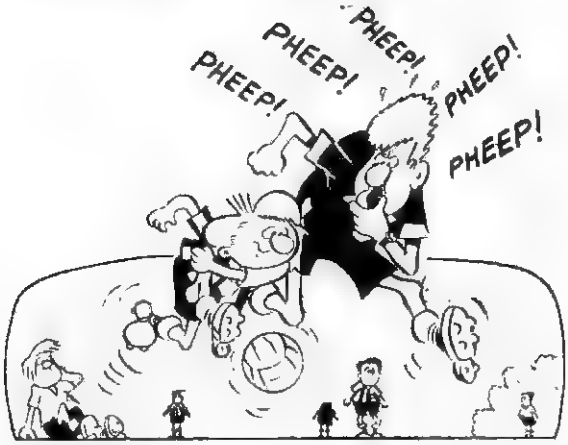
Later—
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HEAR TO PLAY FOOTBALL, THOUGH!

OFFSIDE!
PHEEP!
YES!


PHEEP! PHEEP! PHEEP! PHEEP!
GOAL!

OFFSIDE! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME BLOWING MY WHISTLE?
PARDON?

PHEEP!
FOUL!
NUDGE


PHEEP!
PHEEP!
PHEEP!
PHEEP!
PHEEP!

I BLEW FOR A FOUL! D'DN'T YOJ HEAR ME?
GRAB

MY DEAFNESS IS SPOILING THE WHOLE GAME. HANG ON A MINUTE, REF!

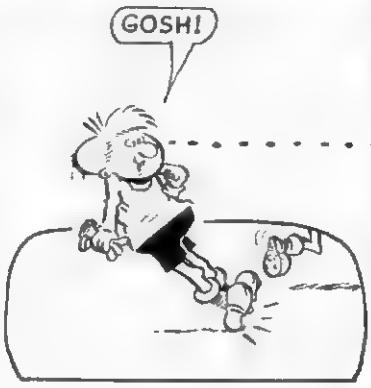
So
PARTY FUN
NOVELTIES
TRICKS
BALLOONS

Soon
FOUL!
CLICK!

HEH! THAT'S MUCH BETTER! CHUCKLE!
PHEE-OOO-EEP!
TICKLE

# BALL BOY

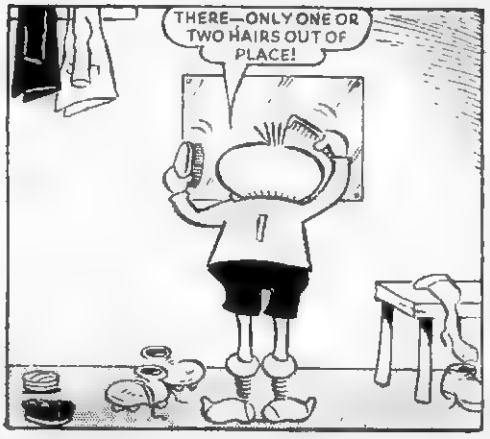
I'M PLAYING IN GOAL TODAY, FANS!


GOSH!

COO! FANCY THAT!

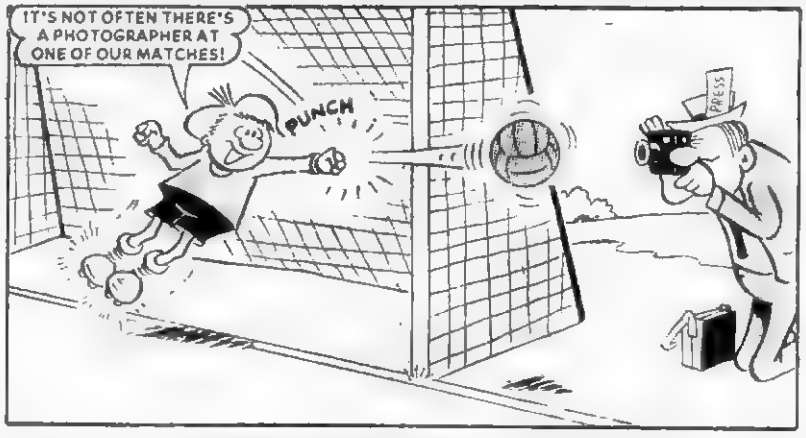
THANKS, MRS BROWN—YOU CAN GET BACK TO IRONING OUR SPARE STRIPS IN A MINUTE!

SHICK! SHICK!


THERE—ONLY ONE OR TWO HAIRS OUT OF PLACE!

POLISH

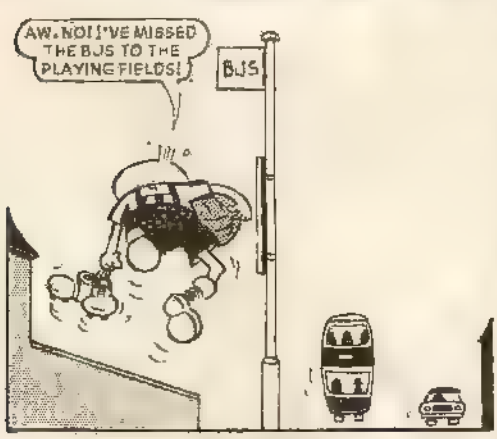
READY AT LAST—HAD TO MAKE MYSELF LOOK GOOD!
IMMACULATE


IT'S NOT OFTEN THERE'S A PHOTOGRAPHER AT ONE OF OUR MATCHES!
PUNCH
PRESS

OO-ER!
SMASH!

SIGH! AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I TOOK!
BNO 2.12.78

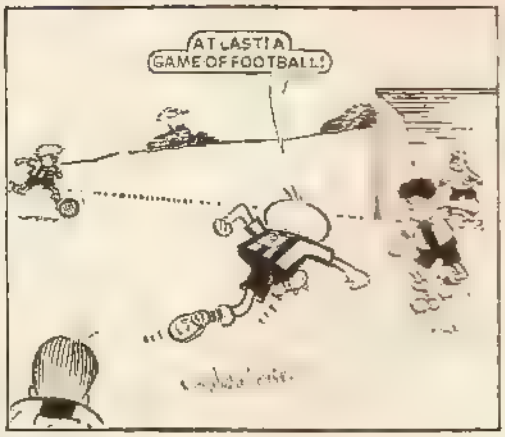
# BALL BOY


AW, NO! I'VE MISSED THE BUS TO THE PLAYING FIELDS!
BUS

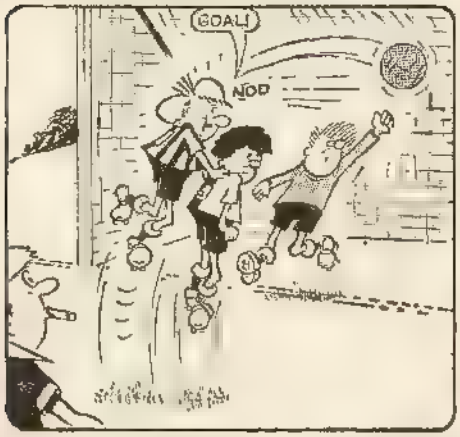
So –
GASP! IT'S A LONG CLIMB UP TO THE PITCHES!

Shortly –
WE'VE GOT TO PUT UP THE GOAL NETS, BUT THE LADDER'S BROKEN!

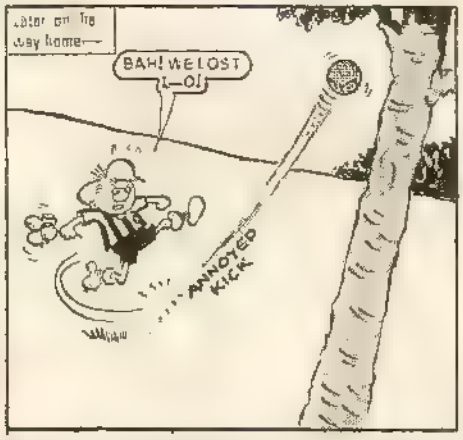
HUH! CLIMBING AGAIN!


AT LAST! A GAME OF FOOTBALL!

GOOD CROSS!

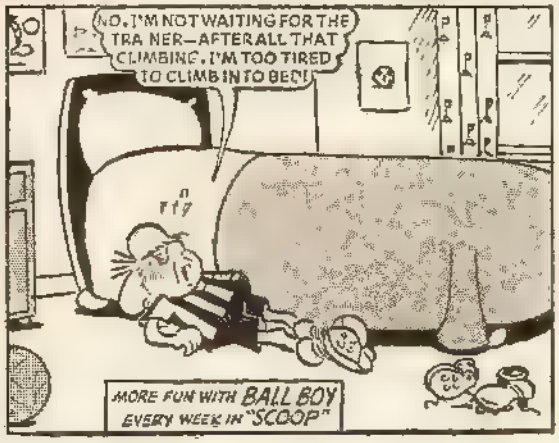

GOAL!
NOD

BALL NEED YOU TO KEEP UP THE GOALS PACE.


Later on the way home—
BAH! WE LOST 1–0!
ANNOYED KICK

BAH! JUST MY PESKY LUCK!
STUCK
BNO. 13.10.79

G-GASP!! I'M EXHAUSTED!


NO, I'M NOT WAITING FOR THE TRAINER—AFTER ALL THAT CLIMBING, I'M TOO TIRED TO CLIMB INTO BED!
MORE FUN WITH BALL BOY EVERY WEEK IN "SCOOP"

# BALL BOY

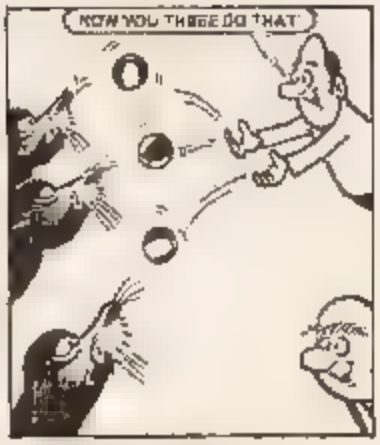
BALANCE
THAT'S AMAZING!

FANTASTIC!

COME WITH ME
GOSH! YOU'RE NOT A TALENT SCOUT FOR LIVERPOOL ARE YOU?

NO, I'M AN ANIMAL TRAINER OR TAMER CIRCUS AND MY SEA LIONS ARE OFF FORM.
CIRCUS
NOW JUST WATCH THE DEMONSTRATION, YOU LOT.

OINK!
OINK!
OINK!
BALANCE
CLAP!
CLAP!
CLAP!


NOW YOU THREE DO THAT!

OH, BOY! A FREE CIRCUS TICKET AT LEAST!
YOU'VE GOT THEM BACK IN TRIM! THEY DIDN'T DROP THE BALL ONCE! WAIT HERE— I MUST GET YOU A REWARD.

OINK!
OINK!
OINK!
OO, ER! SORRY! FORCE OF HABIT!
TOSS

# BALL BOY

END B.B.87

# BALL BOY

HAVE YOU HEARD, B.B.? BENJY WANTS A TRANSFER!
WHAT? OH, NO! HE'S OUR BEST PLAYER! WE'LL BE EXTRA NICE TO HIM, SO HE'LL STAY!

WE'LL TIE YOUR LACES FOR YOU, BENJY!
THANKS!

But—
OH! SORRY, BENJY!
THUMP!

WE'LL LET YOU BE CAPTAIN TODAY—LEAD OUT THE TEAM!
WOW!

I'LL GET EVEN WITH B.B. FOR TRIPPING ME LAST WEEK!

TAKE THAT, BALL BOY!
TRIP

SORRY, BENJY—B.B. USUALLY LEADS OUT YOUR TEAM!
GLOOP!

Then—
SHAKE HANDS, BENJY!
OK, FELLOW CAPTAIN!

YEEEOUCH!
STRONG GRIP

MUST PASS TO BENJY WHENEVER I CAN!
NAH! MY BOOTLACE HAS COME UNDONE!

HERE, BENJY—OOPS!
YOW!
PASS
CLOBBER!

After the game—
TRYING TO MAKE ME LEAVE THE TEAM WITH ALL YOUR TRICKS, EH? WELL, I'M NOT GOING, SO THERE!
NOT AT ALL! WE THOUGHT YOU WANTED A TRANSFER!
YES!
BNO 2.1.82

I WANTED A TRANSFER OF KEVIN KEEGAN TO GO WITH THIS ONE OF OSSIE ARDILUCK!
GULP!

# BALL BOY

Half time—
VISITORS
PHEW! TOUGH FIRST HALF, BOYS.
HOME TEAM

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MY HALF-TIME ORANGE.
AREN'T WE ALL?

EAH! SOMEONE'S EAT'EN OUR ORANGES!
ONLY EMPTY SKINS LEFT!
WHO'S DONE THIS?

So—
I'LL HAVE THE SANDWICH MUM PACKED FOR HALF-TIME, INSTEAD.

WAIL! ONLY CRUSTS LEFT! THE PHANTOM FOOD-SNATCHER'S STRUCK AGAIN!
?

MMM! THE CHANGING-ROOM DOOR WAS LOCKED AND I HAD THE KEY. SOMEONE MUST HAVE CLIMBED IN THE BACK WINDOW.

IMPOSSIBLE, MY DEAR BALL BOY—THE COBWEBS HAVEN'T BEEN DISTURBED!
YOU'RE RIGHT, SHERLOCK—ED—I MEAN, BENJY!

Then—
HMM!
HIC!

And—
OHO!

I'LL LASSO THE THIEVER WITH THIS THREAD!

MEET OUR NEW MASCOTS, READERS—THEY CAN'T BE TRUSTED TO STAY IN THE CHANGING-ROOM WHILE WE'RE PLAYING!
BRINGING ON YOUR SUBSTITUTES, D.D.T.
HIC!
BURP!
BNO 7.4.83

Boutje Fedankt COMICS